

PUK claims KDP pushed back from near Iran border

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Patriotic Union Of Kurdistan (PUK) said Thursday its forces had expelled fighters from its Iraqi-allied rival from two areas of Iraqi Kurdistan near the border with Iran. However, the Kurdistan democratic party (KDP) said in a statement sent to AFP in Nicosia that the PUK claim was "exaggerated."

The PUK said in a statement that it drove KDP militiamen from 42 "villages and hamlets" of the strategic areas of marga and mount asos, south and southeast of Qala Diza. KDP leader Massud Barzani's fighters "sustained heavy losses" and were forced back to the shores of lake dukan and the town of Ranya, the PUK said, adding that it had captured weapons and ammunition. KDP forces had been deployed in the Marga area "as a prelude to an attack on PUK bases" there, it said.

But the KDP said it denied this "false information" and that there has been such a large-scale operation. Remnants of jala talabani's PUK "are inside Iran and occasionally cross the border to raid certain border villages, and when followed they retreat and take sanctuary inside Iranian territory," the KDP said.

The PUK said that it repulsed Tuesday "a major offensive by Iraq-Barzani forces in the area of Shanekhshe," northeast of the city of Sulaymaniyah in predominantly Kurdish northern Iraq.

"The attack, supported by artillery and katyusha (rocket) launchers operated by Iraqi military personnel, was supervised by Massud Barzani," the PUK said.

On Aug. 31, KDP fighters

backed by Iraqi forces captured the Kurdish "capital" of Erbil and within 10 days had swept through the rest of northern Iraq.

The KDP and PUK had jointly ruled the Kurdish safe haven of northern Iraq since 1991 but began a conflict over power-sharing and tax revenues in 1994.

Iraq rejects U.N. statement

Iraq meanwhile dismissed a U.N. statement that the time was not ripe for the start of an "oil-for-food" deal reached by Iraq and the world body in May, saying all conditions had been met to implement it.

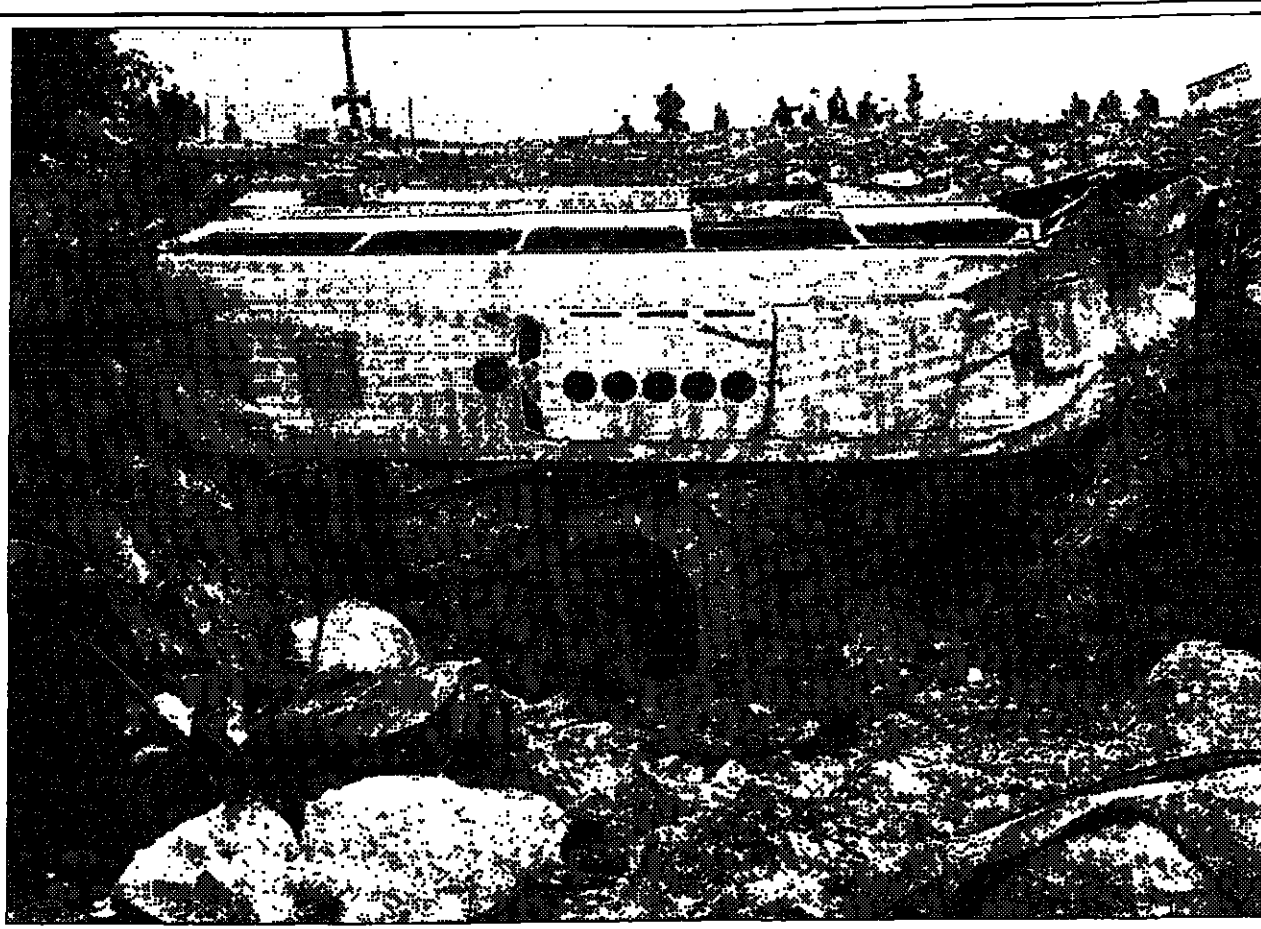
"The (U.N.) secretariat general's stand is unacceptable and unconvincing," said Saad Qassim Hammoudi, head of the foreign relations office of the ruling Baath Party.

The U.N. said on Wednesday it was not yet satisfied that minimum conditions existed in northern Iraq for the start of the plan, which allows Iraq partial oil sales worth \$2 billion every six months to buy food and medicine for its impoverished population.

"The real situation is completely the opposite (of the U.N. assessment). All conditions in northern Iraq are ready to implement the memorandum of understanding (the deal)," Mr. Hammoudi told Reuters.

Arrangements to launch the plan were close to completion when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent troops into the north to back the KDP.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said in September that security conditions prevented the deployment of U.N. staff to monitor the accord.



ACCIDENT: A coach lies down a ravine after it skidded off the road and plunged 30 metres down a ravine in southern Turkey on Thursday. Ten German and Dutch tourists and one Turk were killed and 19 people were injured in the crash near the popular Mediterranean resort of Antalya. The bus was carrying around 30 tourists, mostly German and Dutch, from Antalya to the inland town of Pamukkale (Reuters photo)

Thousands avoid 'official prayers' at gunpoint in central Kabul mosque

KABUL (AFP) — Thousands of Kabul residents stayed at home Friday to avoid being forced into mosques to pray by the Taliban militia.

The normally bustling streets of the capital were almost deserted at midday, except for a few street traders selling prayer hats and turbans around the city's main mosque.

"This mosque has become official, and people do not want to offer official prayers," local resident Abdul Samad said.

"People don't want to be forced into mosque so they have decided to stay at home so they can pray in their own prayers," Mohammad Sadiq said as he hurried home before noon.

The Pul-e-Khishti Mosque, Kabul's main centre of prayer, was unusually quiet, with only a small percentage of the congregation showing up for the main prayer session of the week, locals said.

The scene was in sharp contrast to that of a week ago when worshippers were herded into the overflowing mosque by dozens of Taliban fighters armed with sticks and machine-guns.

Some 3,000 people attended that service, while only about 1,000 people turned up at the mosque Friday.

On Friday, only a handful of armed Taliban patrolled the area, which had mostly been abandoned by the

thousands of pedestrians and cyclists who normally crowded into the area on Friday.

Attendance in the 18th century domed mosque was mainly made up of Taliban officials and soldiers brought in on jeeps, trucks and anti-aircraft gun carriers from other areas of the city.

The mosque was guarded by heavily-armed Taliban militia, mainly preoccupied with ushering away journalists and curious children gathering outside the entrance.

Loud speakers in the mosque rang out throughout the southern part of the capital, broadcasting fierce criticism of the former government ousted by Tale-

ban forces who overran the city on Sept. 27.

"Former President Burhanuddin Rabbani filled his pockets instead of caring for the people and rebuilding the country," the sermon said.

The loud speaker also broadcast accusations that the former regime loyal to Mr. Rabbani was "supported by Russia and India, the enemies of Islam," and urged Kabul's residents to "turn in corrupt elements seeking to disrupt the life of the people."

However, locals who attended other mosques in the capital reported normal attendance, reporting that sermons were mainly non-political in content.

Defence in lese majeste case argues against SSC's jurisdiction

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two journalists were produced at the State Security Court (SSC) on Thursday, with the defence immediately putting up a challenge saying the charge against their clients did not fall under the jurisdiction of the SSC.

The case relates to Nahed Hattar and Abdullah Abu Rouman, who remain under detention following their arrest on charges that they slandered the dignity of His Majesty the King and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince.

Mr. Hattar is charged with writing and distributing articles that contained lese majeste while Mr. Abu Rouman is accused of vocal slander.

If convicted they could face imprisonment up to three years.

During Thursday's hearing, defence lawyers presented written arguments that the charge against their clients was not within the jurisdiction of the State Security Court and that, if anything, they should be tried by the special court dealing with violations of the Press and Publications Law.

Prosecutor Ahmad Al Horan asked the court for time to present a counter-argument and the court set Oct. 16 for the next hearing.

The court is presided over by a three-member military panel headed by Judge Yousef Faouri and including judges Aref Suf and Saleh Saadi.

Thursday's hearing was the first session of the case, which was first called on Saturday after Mr. Hattar surrendered to the authorities after several weeks on the run. The case, was deferred to Thursday since Mr. Abu Rouman, in detention since late August, was

not present in court on Thursday.

The two defendants also face trial by a court on charges of violating national unity and relations between Jordan and Palestine, sowing sectarianism and ethnicism, instigating violence, terror and hatred, and undermining national unity.

The charges against Mr. Hattar and Mr. Abu Rouman stem from articles they allegedly wrote during and after the unrest in the south in mid-August following a government decision to lift direct subsidies on wheat and animal feed and replace the subsidy system with direct cash compensation for all Jordanians.

The Jordan Press Association (JPA) was meanwhile awaiting a response from the government to its appeal that journalist Fud Hussein be either released or referred to court for trial.

Mr. Hussein, a reporter for Al Aswaa daily and a member of the JPA executive board, was arrested shortly after the mid-August riots in the south on charges that he was directly involved in the unrest.

Officials, including Information Minister Marwan Muasher, have said that Mr. Hussein was arrested in connection with security-related charges and violations of the Press and Publications Law.

In an appeal sent to the government last week, the JPA said Mr. Hussein should either be freed or put on trial. The association offered its help to the government with the case if there is one against Mr. Hussein.

"We are still waiting for the government's reply," said a member of the JPA board who did not want to be identified.

Man sentenced to life term for spying for Israel; lawyer says appeal planned

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 45-year-old man who has been sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour by the State Security Court for spying for Israel plans to appeal the verdict, his lawyer said Friday.

"I am planning to appeal the verdict and leave it to God," defence lawyer Abdul Qader Tawarah said.

The convict, identified only as J.A.Y., was sentenced by the military court tribunal com-

posed of Judge Yousef Faouri, Aref Suf and Saleh Saadi to life imprisonment for spying for Israel.

According to the military prosecution, the convict, who was arrested by the authorities last year, obtained secret information and leaked it to the Israeli government.

Military Prosecutor Ahmad Horan Harahsheh had sought the maximum penalty.

Lawyer Tawarah had asked the court for mercy for his client "because of his personal and social circumstances."

Asked what those "circumstances" were, the lawyer declined comment to the Jordan Times.

Thursday's sentencing was the third life sentence verdict issued by the State Security Court against men convicted of spying for Israel, since Jordan signed a peace treaty with the Jewish state in October 1994.

In February of 1996, the court sentenced two men in two separate cases to life terms after convicting them of leaking military secrets to Israeli intelligence services.

Poll shows Arab-American voters prefer Clinton to Dole

WASHINGTON (USIA) —

According to a recent poll conducted for the Arab American Institute and the Middle East Broadcasting Centre, 43 per cent of a sample of Arab-Americans would vote for President Clinton versus 30 per cent for the Republican nominee, former Senator Bob Dole. Only seven per cent declared their preference for Reform Party candidate Ross Perot, while 17 per cent said they were undecided.

The number of people who said they would vote for Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, a Lebanese-American, was insignificant.

The findings were based on a survey of 400 registered Arab-American voters, conducted by the John Zogby Group between Sept. 27 and Oct. 6. The margin of sampling error was plus/minus five per cent. The sample of voters was screened for specific national heritage.

The poll showed that about 57 per cent of Arab-Americans live in the East and the "Central/Great Lakes" region, while one in five lives in the West and the South. The largest ethnic group is of Lebanese descent (46.2 per cent) followed by Palestinians (31.3 per cent). Syrians

(10.8 per cent), and Egyptians (8.9 per cent).

The survey found that more Arab-Americans are registered to vote as Republicans (42 per cent) than Democrats (36.5 per cent). About one-fifth are either Independent or belong to third parties or no parties. Yet, in this year's match-up, Clinton leads Dole, while 17.2 per cent remain undecided.

President Clinton's lead is greatest in the East (49.29 per cent) and the Midwest (43.22 per cent) but the two are virtually tied in the South (41.39 per cent). Also, Clinton's lead is strongest among non-U.S. born, Muslims and those who follow Middle East developments closely, the survey disclosed. Men preferred Clinton to Dole (42-32 per cent) and so did women, by an even bigger margin (45-27 per cent).

Arab-American voters feel that education is the most important issue in this election, followed closely by crime, drugs, health care and taxes. The percentage of voters who said education was the "most important" or "very important" to them was 87.9 per cent — almost 9 in 10. President Clinton, according to the respondents, would do

better than Dole in education, health care, crime and the budget, while Dole would perform better than Clinton in the drug problem and in the issue of character and integrity. Both were about tied in the issue of foreign policy.

Almost three in five of the respondents believe that the Clinton administration is "doing a good job in keeping the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on track," a substantial majority (85.7 per cent) feels that Israel has a right to exist and close to 81.15 per cent believe there should be an independent Palestinian state.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 Adventures of Mickey and Donald
14:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
15:00 Doc. — La France Aux Mille Villages
15:30 Fete des Bebes
16:00 Sports — Gillette
16:30 Big Brother Jake
17:00 News Flash
17:01 French Programme
17:15 Drama — Blue Heelers
18:00 Series — Jack
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Ziva
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Comedy — Something Wilder
20:00 Doc. — New Literacy
20:30 Prism
21:10 Lois and Clarke
20:00 News in English
20:30 Mini-series — Alamo
23:15 Feature Film

PRAYER TIMES

04:15 Fajr
05:32 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:22 Dhuhur
14:39 Asr
17:12 Maghreb
18:29 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifheh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656
Terrasanta Church Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

622266 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
13:29 Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
17:01 St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 827126
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:
Under the effect of a cold air mass affecting the Kingdom, temperatures will drop significantly with skies becoming cloudy. There will be a chance for scattered rain in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom and winds becoming westerly active. In Aqaba, it will be cloudy, winds northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.

Amman 15/23
Aqaba 20/33
Deserts 13/29
Jordan Valley 20/31
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 827195
Dr. Afif Shukri 898863
Dr. Osama Hussaini 847289
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Rafif Atallah 994122
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 896390
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Aklieh Maternity, J. Amn.

642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 6423
62
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hissam Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 523250.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Abu Dhabi (RJ) *
07:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:20 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 New Delhi (RJ)
09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:00 Colombo (RJ)
10:00 Aqaba (addi) (RJ)
14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:20 Cairo (RJ)
18:15 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:40 Vienna (RJ)
04:30 Bangkok (RJ)
Other Flights
02:00 Rome (AZ)
12:40 Muscat, Doha (GF)
13:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:00 Vienna (OS)
18:35 Amsterdam (KL)
19:35 Cairo (MS)
19:50 Damascus, Paris (AF)
20:10 Beirut (ME)
20:15 London (BA)
21:00 Sanan (IY)
21:35 Lamaca (CY)
22:55 London (KJ)
02:00 Kuwait (KL)
05:30 Tel Aviv (LY)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights

08:50 Aqaba (QAIA) — proceeds to Marka airport at 10:00 a.m. (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:35 Beirut (RJ)
07:30 Aqaba (addi) (RJ)
11:00 Aqaba, Paris (RJ)
11:00 Vienna (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:15 Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:15 Cairo (RJ)
13:05 London (RJ)
20:10 Lamaca (RJ)
20:10 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
20:20 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
Other Flights
03:00 Athens (OA)
03:00 Rome (AZ)
07:45 Beirut (ME)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:30 Riyadh (SV)
15:00 Vienna (OS)
19:45 Kuwait (KL)
20:20 Cairo (MS)
22:30 Lamaca (CY)
22:55 Paris, Damascus (AF)
03:00 Sanan (IY)
03:00 Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 Rome (AZ)
05:40 London (KJ)
06:25 Tel Aviv (LY)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
10:00 Aqaba (RW)
HJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every

Monday Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Sunday Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg
Apple 700/500
Banana 500/500
Banana (mukhammar) 420/420
Banana (imported) 830/600
Cabbage 130/80
Carrot 280/140
Cauliflower 350/200
Cucumber (large) 180/100
Cucumber (small) 300/200
Eggplant 240/140
Garlic 700/450
Grapes 500/350
Guava 600/400
Lemon 340/240
Marrow (large) 220/150
Marrow (small) 380/250
Mulukhiyah 180/100
Onion (green) 320/240
Onion (dry) 140/80
Okra 1000/600
Pear 650/450
Pea 600/400
Pepper (hot) 340/200
Pepper (sweet) 450/250
Pomegranate 420/250
Potato 330/200
Spinach 330/200
String Bean 780/500
Tomato 200/120

Friday, October 12, 1996
Her Majesty Queen Noor
against
jurisdiction

Home News

Jordan Times, Saturday, October 12, 1996 3



Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Her Majesty Queen Noor share a joke prior to a dinner in Toronto for the Lester B. Pearson College October 10. The Canadian college is one of nine United World Colleges which are currently led by Queen Noor (Reuters photo)

Queen attends campaign dinner for Arab student scholarship

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien attended a fund-raising dinner in Toronto, to establish an endowment for an Arab student scholarship.

The event was organised with the support of the Prince Aga Khan Shia Ismaili Council of Canada and the proposed endowment will be applied at the Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific.

United World Colleges (UWC) Chair of the Board of Trustees Jim Counts announced the formation of the "UWC Foundation for the Middle East," which will be chaired by Queen Noor.

According to Executive Director of UWC's International Development Office Tom Hodgson, the Foundation "is being set up to fund students from the Middle East to enable them to attend UWCs as well as to establish an endowment fund for a future United World College in the Middle East."

In her remarks, Queen Noor stressed the importance of education in marshalling and developing forces for peace, a Royal Court statement said on Friday.

The Queen added that the United World College's philosophy, which promotes tolerance, conflict resolution and cross-cultural interaction will give students from the Middle East the opportunity to "contribute meaningfully to the quality of peace we are striving for."

Prime Minister Chrétien said that both "His Majesty King Hussein and Queen Noor have been at the centre of work for peace in the Middle East."

Jordanian Pearson College student Sameh Abdul Fattah Natour remarked that Arab students are under-represented at the United World Colleges. "A weakness which the endowment and the foundation will hopefully address."

Pearson College, one of nine United World Colleges around the world, is Canada's national memorial to the late prime minister, diplomat and Nobel Prize laureate, Lester B. Pearson.

Mr. Pearson once asked, "how can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don't know each other?"

The college is a dynamic international community where 200 young people from over 83 countries, including Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Egypt, live, study and work together, the statement said.

Its two-year International Baccalaureate academic curriculum and its intense Community Service Programme helps to develop "outstanding students who are socially committed and will return home with a global vision."

This site of the College, which is located on the shores of Vancouver Island, enables students to take part in rigorous mountain and sea rescue services in cooperation with the Canadian Coast Guard and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Pearson's full scholarship policy makes it possible for students of all social backgrounds, from any country of the world to attend.

The Ismaili Council of Canada focuses on helping one particular charity per year and selected Pearson College this year.

Senator Leila Sharaf, Ambassador and Mrs. Samir Khalifeh and members of the UWC Jordanian National Committee Mohammad Maqusi and Lina Toukan, advisor to Queen Noor, attended the event.

New panel to unify tender regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Government Tenders Department is creating a committee that will unify regulations and legislation governing tenders, according to department director Nasser Falah Madadha.

Mr. Madadha said Friday that the move will control public spending, prevent illegal and fraudulent conduct and protect the public interest.

He said the committee will comprise representatives of the ministries of Public Works and Housing, Higher Education, Transport, Planning, Industry and Trade, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment as well as the Jordan Armed Forces, the Amman Municipality, the Amman Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the National Contracting and Engineering Associations in addition to the Tenders Department itself.

According to Mr. Madadha, the committee will study legislation, technical and financial bid evaluation procedures, the stipulation of tender conditions, contract awards procedures, and the supervision of the execution of government-sponsored tenders.

He said the team will examine foreign company involvement in the implementation of local projects.

The committee will also enlist the help of engineering consultancy offices in its work, he added.

Mr. Madadha said the committee will then draft a report and present it to the Prime Minister.

He said the present 15 sets of rules governing tenders have often overlapped and caused confusion between various government departments.

Jordan to attend world nature conservation forum

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will take part in a meeting of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), due to open in Montreal, Canada tomorrow.

Heading the Jordanian delegation is Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat, who said the union will discuss a range of topics on world environment as well as national, regional and international efforts to help protect measures to stop further ozone depletion.

The Montreal meeting, he said, is perhaps the most

important of the IUCN since the 1992 Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil because all union members and world organisations concerned with nature conservation are expected to be represented.

During the meeting, the delegates will prepare environmental protection programmes for the next century as well as elect a new IUCN president and heads of union committees, said the minister. Dr. Tubeishat said that he plans to meet with the president of the Montreal Fund to present Jordan's environment-related projects in protecting the ozone layer.

He said Jordan plans to carry out five such projects and requires \$1.5 million to finance them, which it hopes to obtain from the Montreal Fund.

The Montreal Fund was created in 1987 to finance developing countries' projects in protecting the ozone from chemical substances, especially prevalent in refrigeration and air conditioning mechanisms which contribute to global warming.

The IUCN was founded in 1948 to promote the conservation of natural resources by scientific monitoring, determine scientific conservation priorities, mobilise scientific and professional resources to investigate the most serious conservation problems and recommend their potential solutions, develop programmes to protect and sustain the most pressing threatened species and ecosystems and, finally, to assist governments in devising and carrying out conservation projects.

Dr. Tubeishat will be accompanied by several officials including Head of the Jordanian Environmental Protection Corporation Dr. Saleh Shareh.

The Montreal meeting will last until Oct. 23.

Pathologist testifies in murder trial

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A pathologist, who examined a 24-year-old man accused of murder, Thursday testified that he, indeed, found scratches on the defendant's body.

Forensic expert Ahmad Odeh Ali, of the National Institute of Forensic Medicine, told the Criminal Court that he detected abrasions on Abdul Fatah Mustafa's neck, back, chest and shoulders.

Mr. Mustafa is accused of murdering Iman Yassin, 26, in the Tlaa Al Ali area of Amman last August.

The examination was undertaken two days after police found Dr. Yassin dead in her apartment at Al Fardous Complex.

Dr. Ali testified for the prosecution, maintaining that the scratches in question were more than 24 hours and less than a week old.

The prosecution had charged that the defendant, who worked as a guard and in building maintenance, had monitored the victim with the intention of sexually assaulting her "even if he had to kill her."

According to the prosecution charge sheet, on the night of Aug. 11, the defendant consumed alcohol, then broke into Dr. Yassin's apartment and attempted to rape her.

A struggle ensued in which the man's head struck a radiator, killing her instantly, the prosecution charged.

Mr. Mustafa, who confessed in front of the prosecution, faces five charges: murder, attempted rape, sexual aggression, unlawful entry and public intoxication.

Also testifying for the prosecution was one of the victim's colleagues at the Islamic Hospital, Iman Russem, who told the court that she contacted the victim's landlord on Aug. 12, "as she failed to show up for work."

"At first, the building owner told us that he could not open the door to see if something had happened, but when I insisted and then went to the building complex, to check on my friend, I found that she was dead," she told the court room.

The court tribunal, presided over by Justices Abdul Ruhman Tawfiq, Marwan Dabbas and Mifteh Moubaidin, postponed the case until Oct. 17 to hear the prosecution's last witness, forensic expert Abdul Karim Qassem, who examined the victim's body.

Kingdom studies population report

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh this week opened a two-day meeting of National Population Councils in the Arab World to review a report on population growth.

The minister also outlined Jordan's endeavours in dealing with population concerns. "Questions pertaining to population and sustainable development are given priority by the Jordanian government which believes in achieving a balance between population growth and the requirements of comprehensive development," said the minister at the opening session.

"Jordan has a high rate of population growth largely due to forced migrations, faced since the 1940s, as well as high fertility rates. The Kingdom has given these issues due attention because high population growth increases unemployment and poverty rates and places additional burdens on public services," he added at the meeting which was organised by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

"In its drive to deal with population issues, Jordan formed a national population committee in 1973 to draw up a national strategy on population in the Kingdom," added the minister.

ESCWA stated the aim of the meeting as improving the ability of Arab national population councils to prepare and develop comprehensive development policies.

Prince celebrates 34th birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Prince Faisal Ben Hussein Friday celebrated his 34th birthday.

Born on Oct. 12, 1963, he received his elementary education at the Islamic College in Amman and in the United Kingdom.

In 1971, Prince Faisal went to the United States where he completed his secondary education in the state of Massachusetts and in the capital Washington D.C.

In 1981 he enrolled at Brown University in the United States, where, in 1985, he obtained a bachelor

of science degree in electrical engineering.

He simultaneously obtained training as a pilot and received his wings in 1982, later joining the Royal Jordanian Airforce to train in helicopter navigation.

The Prince then returned to the United Kingdom where he studied at Cornwall Academy and was presented six awards for excellent performance.

Subsequently, he trained on fighter planes.

At present, Prince Faisal is preparing for his masters



degree in public administration from England. The Prince, who is ranked

as lieutenant-colonel in the airforce, is commander of the Sixth Royal Squadron and president of several clubs such as the Royal Gliders Club and the Golf Club.

Prince Faisal is involved in several sports and cultural activities and has represented Jordan in numerous international functions.

He is married to Princess Alia, daughter of the late Jordanian businessman Tawfiq Tabbara and the couple has two children, Princess Aya and Prince Omar.

Adolescents still missing after 10 days

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The fate of three teenagers reported missing 10 days ago remained a mystery Friday with their families appealing for an intensified search.

Murad Tayseer Hassan, 14, Mohammad Zayed, 13, and Mohammad Ahmad Freij, 13, all residents of the Irbid Refugee Camp, left school in North Irbid on Oct. 3 and have not been seen since, police and family members said.

Ahmad Freij called a morning television show saying three children were missing, including his child, and requested that anyone with information contact him or parents of the other boys.

An Irbid police official contacted by the Jordan Times Friday evening maintained that all police stations and border police have been notified and supplied with pictures of the missing boys.

The official said that preliminary investigations with their families, school mates and other witnesses indicated that the boys had planned to run away.

Family members of Nawaf Zayed told the Jordan Times Friday that the authorities informed them that their children were seen by witnesses swimming in the Dead Sea one day after they failed to return home from school.

"It seems that the boys had planned their escape, because Nawaf took extra money and food supplies with him before leaving for school," the relative said.

According to the relative, all three families checked with their extended families to check whether their children might have come by, "but we were informed by everyone that the children did not visit."

"Probably the boys are frightened to return home, as they have been gone for a long time," the relative said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LOUD RECITAL

*Oud recital by musician Salim Abdul Karim at the Royal Cultural Centre main theatre at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

*Sculpture and painting exhibition by Mohammad Bushnaq at Kan Zaman, until Oct. 18.

*"Amman-Sixth International Book Exhibition" at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road, until Oct. 17.

*"Coloured Silence" exhibition by Samira Abdul Wahab at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel 687598), until Oct. 20.

CONDOLENCES

With deep sorrow and grief, the Director-General of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and his staff, regret the passing away of the Polish archaeologist

Dr Antoni Ostracz

who died on Thursday, October 10, 1996 at the age of 68. Dr Ostracz worked for several years with the department at the Jarash Hippodrome. He loved archaeology and was devoted to Jordan and its cultural heritage

The Director-General and his staff offer their deepest condolences to his wife Ina and his son Mark.

May God give them the strength to overcome this tragedy. May his soul rest in peace

The funeral will take place at the Roman Catholic Church - Nasara St./Jarash on Saturday, 12 October, 1996 at 2.00 p.m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Officers and soldiers honoured for efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department Director General Gen. Nacouh Muhieddin Friday honoured several police officers and soldiers for their efforts to arrest a dangerous criminal who shot and injured a citizen and then fled the scene. The criminal opened fire on police patrols who chased him and forced his surrender. Gen. Muhieddin thanked the officers and soldiers for their efforts and called on citizens to provide information to security departments about any criminal activities, saying that such information helps the PSD put an end to crime.

Radiology conference begins in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day radiology conference will commence here today. The conference includes lectures and refresher courses aimed at briefing participants on the latest advances in diagnostic radiology. Taking part in the conference will be medical doctors from Jordan and the United States. The conference is organised by the Jordan Radiologists Association in cooperation with the Maab Travel and Tourism Agency.

Arab-European relations to be evaluated

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF), in cooperation with the Austrian Bruno Kreisky Forum, is organising a two-day symposium in Barcelona on Oct. 23 to discuss Arab-European relations and assess achievements since the last Barcelona conference, held almost a year ago. Representing Jordan at the symposium will be Senator Abdul Salam Majali, Deputy Taher Masri and ATF member Hala Sabri.

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5 die in attacks on Indonesian churches, schools and convent

JAKARTA (R) — Five people died when a mob burned nine churches, four Christian schools and a convent in the Indonesian town of Situbondo, a policeman in the town said Friday.

"It is true the churches were burnt" Thursday, the policeman told Reuters by telephone from the town on Java Island 800 km east of the capital Jakarta. "The five died inside a church," he said before the phone was cut off.

He said the crowd also destroyed a court building and cars and caused other damage during the violence around 1 p.m. Thursday.

Indonesia's nearly 200 million population on the archipelago of 17,500 islands is more than 85 per cent Muslim, but the state ideology preaches religious tolerance and recognises the five main religions.

Situbondo is about 160 km east of Indonesia's second city, Surabaya, where a number of attacks on churches were reported in June. The reason for these attacks was not clear.

The policeman said it was yet unknown what had caused the Situbondo riot or whether it had been organised. A number of people had been detained and investigations were continuing, he added.

A Surabaya-based journalist who went to Situbondo said the riot

apparently broke out after a hearing in the court into a case of alleged blasphemy against Islam.

He said several thousand people outside the court during the third hearing into the case called for the accused to be sentenced immediately or handed over to the crowd.

He said another church was burnt in the neighbouring town of Panarukan.

A hall being used by Roman Catholics as a church in a village in east Jakarta was burned down in mid-September.

Catholics in the area attributed the attack to religious antagonism towards their presence.

Meanwhile, former Indonesian legislator Sri Bintang Pamungkas, ousted from parliament and convicted of defaming President Suharto, said Friday he would stand for president in 1998 to highlight the need for political change.

Mr. Bintang, a university lecturer on oil pending an appeal against a 34-month jail sentence handed down in May, declared his candidacy at a news conference, saying lawyer and former student activist Julius Usman would be his running mate.

Both men set up the United Democratic Party of Indonesia (PUDI) days after Mr. Bintang was convicted. In doing so, they defied a

law which recognises only three political parties in the country.

"We need a new president in 1998. We don't want to have Mr. Suharto any more. We don't want either, members of the regime who support the totalitarian system to take power," Mr. Bintang said in a declaration jointly signed with Usman.

They encouraged the recognised parties — the Ruling Golkar, the Christian-Nationalist Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) and the Muslim-Oriented United Development Party (PPP) — and new independent parties to put forward their own candidates.

Mr. Suharto, a former general who took power in 1966, was first elected president by the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) in 1968. He has been re-elected unchallenged for six consecutive terms and is likely to run for a seventh term in 1998.

Indonesia says that only one candidate is put forward because under its unique state ideology of Pancasila, a consensus is reached between parties rather than a vote taken.

Political analysts said the government recently supported PDI party rebels who ousted leader Megawati Sukarnoputri because it feared her growing popularity would allow her to become a potential chal-

lenger to Mr. Suharto at the presidential election.

The MPR consists of the 500-member house of representatives (DPR), 425 of whom are elected and 75 nominated by the military, and 500 other members appointed directly by the president.

Elections to the DPR are due in May next year with candidates being put up only by the three recognised parties.

Mr. Bintang predicted that for the first time the 1998 presidential poll would be "full of fighting" but there could be a chance for the pro-democracy movement to win.

"We propose to the people of Indonesia that every party, including PUDI, elects and appoints its own candidate for president and vice president," Mr. Bintang said. He said all candidates should promise to stand for not more than two five-year terms.

Mr. Bintang said he and Usman, both 51, had decided to declare themselves as candidates for president and vice-president respectively to promote change.

"We understand it will be difficult to overthrow the 30-year-old regime, but we have to believe, we have to be optimistic that there is a chance, that people are waiting for a new president, that people are waiting for a change," he said.



Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole (right) gives a thumbs up to supporters after arriving at Lunken Municipal Airport in Cincinnati Thursday. Sen. Dole was joined by vice-presidential nominee Jack Kemp (left) and former head of the Joint Chief of Staff Colin Powell as they kick off the Dole-Kemp '96 Ohio Bus Tour (Reuters photo)

Clinton, Dole court Ohio voters

WASHINGTON (R) — With less than four weeks to election day, President Bill Clinton and Bob Dole campaigned head-to-head in Ohio, a state crucial to any chance Mr. Dole might have of an upset victory.

The Buckeye state, with its 21 electoral votes, is badly needed by Mr. Dole, who must catch fire nationally as the campaign winds down toward the Nov. 5 election. Without a victory in Ohio, no 20th century republican has ever won the presidency.

Yet the Republican presidential challenger has a way to go in the state, where Mr. Clinton narrowly beat then-President George Bush four years ago. A Mason-Dixon poll in Ohio in late September had Mr. Clinton up 10 percentage points, 45 to 35 per cent, over Mr. Dole, with reform party candidate Ross Perot at 5 per cent.

A Reuters national tracking poll Thursday put the democratic president 8.5 percentage points ahead of Mr. Dole.

Mr. Clinton had 44.2 per cent, Mr. Dole 35.7 per cent and reform party candidate Ross Perot 6.1 per cent, with the rest undecided.

Campaigning in Cincinnati, Mr. Dole, who has been telling voters that character matters in presidents, stepped up this line of attack by questioning Mr. Clinton's truthfulness.

Some of Mr. Dole's aides have been suggesting that Mr. Dole start getting tougher with Mr. Clinton, especially on the so-called issue of trust and character.

Appearing with two favourite crowd-getters, retired Gen. Colin Powell and his running mate, Jack Kemp, Mr. Dole lashed out at Mr. Clinton as "the great exaggerator."

At the start of a two-day bus tour through Ohio, Mr. Dole suggested he can be trusted while Mr. Clinton cannot.

"Now, President Clinton's been talking a lot about a bridge to the future," he told a Cincinnati rally. "What we really need is a bridge to the truth. A bridge to the truth."

Remember President



President Bill Clinton makes a point while addressing the crowd in Knoxville, Tennessee Thursday. Mr. Clinton proposed a \$100 million plan to expand the reach of the Internet during his visit to the hi-tech area (Reuters photo)

Reagan was the great communicator," he said. "President Clinton is the great exaggerator. He exaggerates everything that happens in America. He takes credit for everything. If that's the case, he can take the blame for drug use doubling" since he took office, Mr. Dole added.

Mr. Clinton moved his campaign into Ohio, too, Thursday after an appearance in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he proposed a \$100 million plan for technology updating to make the Internet as commonplace in schools as the blackboard.

Campaigning with him in Ohio, Mr. Clinton campaign spokesman Joe Lockhart brushed off Mr. Dole's charge that Mr. Clinton is the "great exaggerator."

"I think we'll let the voters decide," Mr. Lockhart said. "One more day goes by and Bob Dole says nothing about where he would

take the country."

Mr. Dole has been looking for a winning formula to gain on Mr. Clinton. He won praise for his performance in his presidential debate last Sunday but post-debate polls showed that most people thought Mr. Clinton did better.

Mr. Dole didn't get much help from the vice presidential debate in St. Petersburg, Fla., Wednesday night between his running mate and Vice-President Al Gore.

Mr. Gore won the gentlemanly discussion of issues with Mr. Kemp according to post-debate polls with small samples conducted by CBS news, CNN/USA Today/Gallup and ABC news by margins ranging from about 5 to 3 to about 2 to 1 for Mr. Gore.

Mr. Dole gets one more chance to even the debate score with Mr. Clinton Wednesday when he meets him in a town meeting-style debate in San Diego, California.

Japan's old guard aims to cling to power

TOKYO (R) — It may be well ahead in the opinion polls, but Japan's liberal Democratic Party is leaving nothing to chance to ensure it hangs on to power after general elections on Oct. 20.

The Conservative Party, hedging against predictions it will fall short of an outright win, has stepped up its search for coalition partners to form the next government, analysts and legislators said Friday.

The LDP, which in media polls has scored at least twice the support of its main rival, calculates it can win between 220 and 230 seats — shy of a majority in the 500-seat lower house of parliament but still the biggest bloc, party officials say.

The anti-LDP vote will be split between Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) and the Democratic Party, putting the LDP in a commanding position," said LDP leg-

islator Junichiro Koizumi.

The LDP's confidence is backed by polls and by the strong advantage pundits say it enjoys under a first-past-the-post electoral system to be used in Japan for the first time.

In a voter survey published Thursday by the conservative daily Sankei Shimbun, 28.9 per cent of those polled said they supported the LDP, while 12.4 per cent backed Shinshinto. The Democrats, a new populist grouping, drew 9.2 per cent support.

Other surveys have indicated that as many as 55 per cent of Japan's 98 million eligible voters are still undecided.

The new lower house is to be made up of 300 winners in single-seat constituencies and 200 to be chosen through proportional representation in 11 regional blocs.

The single-seat constituencies are expected to fa-

vour large, deeply entrenched parties like the LDP, which ruled Japan continuously from 1955 to 1993.

The LDP lost power for 10 months, retaking the reins of government in 1994 in a coalition with the Socialist Democratic Party and new party Sakigake, an LDP splinter group.

With the bulk of social Democratic and Sakigake legislators having defected to form the democratic party, LDP leaders have intensified efforts to woo the new group as a coalition mate.

The Democratic Party is expected to do well with urban voters on the coattails of its popular leader, Health Minister Naoto Kan, who gained hero status for revealing his ministry's role in covering up a major scandal over the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, from contaminated blood products.

Poll: Most Catholics want IRA truce

BELFAST (Agencies) — A huge majority of Northern Ireland's Catholics want the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to halt its campaign of violence, a poll published Friday suggested.

In the telephone poll carried out by the Republican Irish News, 92 per cent of readers who contacted the newspaper said they wanted the IRA to call a new ceasefire. The newspaper said 13,368 rang in to vote for a new truce and 1,118 to oppose it.

"The IRA would lose nothing by calling a ceasefire now. It has everything to gain by doing so," the Irish news said in an editorial.

The IRA set off two car bombs at Britain's army headquarters in Northern Ireland Monday, its first attack in the province for two years.

The guerrilla group, which is fighting for a united Ireland, had called off a 17-month ceasefire on Feb. 9 and has carried out a series of bombings on the British mainland.

The IRA's political arm, Sinn Féin, has been barred from joining peace talks sponsored by Britain and Ireland until the guerrillas call a new truce and surrender arms.

Pro-British loyalists are still holding to a two-year-old ceasefire, although Monday's bombing has raised fears they could return to violence.

A British soldier wounded in Monday's IRA attack on the British army's main barracks in Northern Ireland died Friday, police said.

He was the first soldier to die from terrorist action in Northern Ireland since the Irish Republican Army (IRA) called a ceasefire — now ended since February this year — in August 1994.

The IRA's double car bombing of the base in Lisburn southwest of Belfast left 31 injured, both soldiers and civilians.

Warrant officer class one James Bradwell, of the royal electrical and mechanical engineers, married with three children, 43, was

understood to have suffered 60 per cent burns.

Mr. Bradwell was injured in the first blast and then again when the second bomb went off close to the army medical centre, where he was being treated.

Doctors said Mr. Bradwell may have been as close as 30 feet from the first bomb when it went off.

Seven people, including a woman, who was ill but stable after having shrapnel lodged in her head, were still in hospital Friday.

The soldier's wife was at his bedside when he died in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital just before 7 a.m. (0600 GMT).

Northern Ireland police were still questioning a man arrested Thursday in Belfast in connection with the bombing. He is being held under the provisions of Britain's prevention of terrorism act, which allows detention for a maximum of seven days without charge.

The arrest came a day after the Royal Ulster Constabulary released a computer-generated portrait of a suspected IRA bomber seen driving out of the army base shortly after the bomb attack Monday, but officers would not say if the man arrested was that suspect.

Police Friday did not specify whether the man was a key link in the inquiry, or just being questioned as a witness. A car seen driving out of the base after the attack Monday was found burning in the Republican Poleglass Estate in west Belfast afterwards, the area where the arrested man lived.

Meanwhile as a police investigation into how the IRA breached security around the base continued, senior army sources dismissed a media report Thursday night that security cameras at the main entrance to the army headquarters were not functioning on the day the bombers struck.

Chechen rebels announce poll plan

LONDON (AFP) — Chechen rebel spokesman Movladi Udugov said after a meeting of top rebel officials and commanders outside Grozny Thursday that presidential and parliamentary elections would be held in Chechnya two to three months after a Russian army pullout.

In remarks broadcast on Russian NTV television, monitored by the BBC, Mr. Udugov said that the elections would end what he called Chechnya's interim period.

"Exactly two months after the Russian army leaves the territory of the Chechen Republic — or perhaps three months but not more than three months, depending on how our preparations go — open, democratic presidential and parliamentary elections will be held in the Chechen Republic with the participation of all real public and political forces," he said.

Mr. Udugov went on to say that the meeting in Novy Atagi had also appointed rebel delegates to the reconciliation commission running Chechnya in the interim.

The meeting agreed to tackle the question of Chechnya's relationship with Russia with "cool, sober minds," he added.

Interfax news agency earlier reported that Russian Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov had called for a referendum across Russia to decide the status of Chechnya.

Such a national referendum would be unlikely to hand the northern Caucasus Republic its long-sought after independence.

Mr. Kulikov is the arch-enemy of National Security Chief Alexander Lebed, who against the odds negotiated and signed a peace accord with Chechen rebels ending almost 21 months of conflict.

The accord signed on Aug. 31 put the issue of Chechnya's final status on the backburner for a maximum of five years.

Mr. Kulikov also called for two brigades of soldiers, about 6,000 men, to stay in Chechnya to defend "high-risk" areas such as airports and the administrative borders.

India's Hindu nationalists beaten in most populous state

LUCKNOW, India (R) — Hindu nationalists Friday fell well short of their goal of winning an outright majority in elections in India's most populous state and suffered a blow in their efforts to win national power.

But the nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) retained enough clout to stir trouble between Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's coalition and its key backer, the Congress Party, analysts said.

With results in all but one of the 425 seats in the state assembly declared, the BJP had won only 177 seats in Uttar Pradesh, considered the Hindu nationalists' political springboard for capturing power in New Delhi.

"It (the result) has dealt a stunning psychological blow to the party's long-term plans of becoming the national alternative to the congress," executive editor Ajay Bose wrote in the

Pioneer newspaper Friday.

The BJP, which built its national foundations on a Hindu revivalist agenda in Uttar Pradesh in the late 1980s, had hoped to win control of the country's biggest electoral prize.

The north Indian state wields enormous influence in the federal parliament where it has the largest number of seats.

Mr. Deve Gowda's United Front alliance finished second in the race with 134 seats.

Congress, which has ruled India for all but four years since independence in 1947, came in third as a junior partner in an alliance with the low-caste Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

But the congress-BSP alliance, which won 100 seats, was standing firm by a demand that it be allowed to form the Uttar Pradesh government.

The Congress Party says the United Front must support the team under BSP

leader Mayawati in Uttar Pradesh in exchange for congress' support in New Delhi.

Mr. Deve Gowda's minority coalition in the federal parliament would fall if congress withdrew its support.

"If the United Front is really committed to driving out communal forces, then why are they hesitating in coming forward to extend support to a Mayawati-led congress-BSP government?" Jitendra Prasad, Congress State Party Chief, told Reuters in the Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow.

The BJP's rivals consider the party "communal" because they say it discriminates against the Muslim minority.

But the United Front was slow to take up Congress's demand because the party which won the most seats for Deve Gowda's coalition, the Samajwadi Party, is bitterly opposed to Mr. Mayawati.

Cave paintings from 10,000 B.C. discovered

LIMA, Peru (R) — A team of Peruvian and Polish archaeologists announced Thursday the discovery of rock paintings dating from before 10,000 B.C. in a cave complex that formed part of an ancient citadel. "The quality and colours of the paintings are impressive," Jose Antonio Chavez said of the human and animal drawings. Mr. Chavez is head of archaeology at the Catholic Santa Maria University in the southern Peruvian city of Arequipa. The caves, in the Chuquibambas area of Arequipa Department 1,050 kilometres south of Lima, are thought to belong to a citadel built by members of the Izapa culture, one of many Indian civilisations that existed in Peru before the 13th-century Inca culture.

Terminally ill U.S. teenager bags bear

WHITE BEAR LAKE, Minnesota (R) — A terminally ill teenager whose desire to shoot a bear created an uproar among animal rights activists has killed a towering brown bear in Alaska. It was reported Friday, Erik Ness, 18, killed the almost 317 kilogramme, 2.5 metre animal near the Siuk River during an unpublished trip last month paid for by the Minnesota chapter of Safari Club International, a club for hunters. The trip came to light through an account in Outdoor News, a weekly for sports enthusiasts, and in local newspapers. Earlier this year, the Minnesota chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a group that tries to fulfil the dreams of dying children, sent the boy on what proved to be an unsuccessful hunting trip to Alaska despite protests from animal rights groups. Ness has brain cancer, though the disease is in remission. Dan Treb, president of the Safari Club chapter, told the St. Paul Pioneer Press the group raised \$11,000 in three days to send the boy and his father on the trip. A taxidermist was reportedly preserving the animal free of charge. Heidi Greger, president of the Animal Rights Coalition in Minneapolis, told the same newspaper that Safari International's actions were appalling. "They have used Erik as a pawn to further their agenda, and that agenda is very anti-animal and anti-animal rights activists," she said.

Rats provide new Paris terror

PARIS (AFP) — The rat population of Paris has exploded over the last 18 months, largely due to an anti-terrorist security clampdown which sealed all the city's litter bins last year, a report said Wednesday. A particular breed of vermin has taken advantage of the crackdown, and the resulting piles of garbage on the pavement, to multiply rapidly in the sewers, basements and parks of the French capital. "We have had lots of complaints, not only from Parisians but also from our Technical Services Department dealing with parks and gardens," a police spokesman told the daily Le Figaro. The explosion came after metal lids were bolted onto the top of all 26,000 litter bins in Paris last autumn in the wake of an Islamic fundamentalist bombing wave which killed eight and injured more than 200. The Ratus Norvegicus, historically Paris' most common rat type, leapt on the 70 tonnes of litter per day which was dumped on the street as a result and bred like vermin. "It always reappears when social problems upset the rhythm of the city," one source said, adding that the rats can live undetected in basements for years, since unlike mice they rarely come up into apartments to look for food.

Seoul agrees to preserve N. Korea nuclear pact

SEOUL (R) — South Korea assured the United States Friday it would continue to support a landmark nuclear agreement with Pyongyang, despite the incursion of a North Korean submarine, the Seoul foreign ministry said.

Foreign Minister Gong Ro-myung gave the assurance at a meeting with U.S. assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, a ministry spokesman said.

"They agreed in principle to implement the nuclear agreement, not to scrap it. The situation does not permit it," he said. U.S. officials were not available for comment.

Seoul had hinted it might withdraw its backing for the accord under which Pyongyang agreed to scrap its suspected nuclear weapons programme in return for two light water reactors supplied by South Korea.

The 1994 Geneva agreement between the United States and North Korea is the cornerstone of U.S. President Bill Clinton's policy of "constructive engagement" with Pyongyang, and one of his shining foreign policy successes.

Mr. Lord and Gong agreed that last month's incursion of the Shark-class submarine that landed 26 infiltrators should not threaten a proposal for peace talks with North Korea.

Mr. Clinton and South Korean Head of State Kim Young-Sam have proposed four-party talks, including China, to replace an armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean war with a permanent peace arrangement.

"They agreed to implement the four-party meet-



U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord (2nd from right) introduces South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Gong Ro-myung (right) to a member of his entourage while U.S. Ambassador to Korea James Laney looks on in Seoul Friday (Reuters photo)

ings in the future," the spokesman said.

However, he added that "The South Korean government needs some kind of apology from North Korea or some kind of measures to make sure this doesn't happen again."

Mr. Gong and Mr. Lord agreed that any measures would have to be approved by the United Nations.

South Korea has pledged to foot most of the \$3 billion cost to build the nuclear plants and supply North Korea with interim fuel supplies.

Washington had feared the submarine incident would escalate out of control and unravel the 1994 pact that defused a nuclear

crisis on the Korean peninsula.

Mr. Lord, Washington's top Asia official, arrived Thursday. Diplomats said his mission was to assure Seoul of U.S. backing in the face of Pyongyang's provocations while trying to limit wider damage from the incident.

South Korea has insisted Pyongyang must pay for what it says was a commando mission.

Twenty-two of the infiltrators have been killed by South Korean troops or found dead. One was captured alive and a hunt is on for the remaining three, who are suspected of murdering three east coast villagers this week.

Earlier Friday, the defence ministry announced that a South Korean corporal shot dead one of his officers after mistaking him for a North Korean infiltrator during the manhunt on Mount Odae.

The captain, 26, was shot in the head Thursday night after the 21-year-old corporal who was waiting in an ambush heard noises and thought it was a North Korean infiltrator.

He was the fifth South Korean soldier killed in the hunt for the Communist agents after their submarine was found grounded on rocks on Sept. 18. Three have died from friendly fire and two were shot and killed by intruders.

Major vows 'opportunity for all'

BOURNEMOUTH, England (AFP) — Prime Minister John Major, saying he was forced to quit school at 16 to help his mother make ends meet, Friday said "opportunity for all the people" was "in the bloodstream" of his Conservative Party.

Capping a Tory pre-election conference aimed at cementing the Conservatives' unity and presenting a warmer, more personal face to an electorate leaning increasingly toward the Labour opposition, Mr. Major promised reform in education, health care, law and order and welfare.

He alluded to a welfare system "for the 21st century... a system for a self-help society, not a help-yourself society."

In a stark departure from conference past, Mr. Major pushed himself, his background and his family to the fore, drawing warm applause and frequent laughter from the 3,500 delegates who finally regaled him and his wife, Norma, with three rousing, flag-waving choruses of "Land of hope and glory."

"I was born in the war," he said. "My father was 66. My mother was — how shall I put it? — surprised." After the family business failed, "my mother coped, as women do," he said. "I left school at 16 because an

extra £5 (\$7.5) a week mattered."

Mr. Major scorned Labour, favoured to win elections to be held by May, whose leader Tony Blair sought at a conference last week to put forward the face of a new mainstream opposition party that had left its socialist roots behind.

"It simply won't do for Mr Blair to say, 'look, I'm not a socialist anymore. Now I can be prime minister, please.' Sorry, Tony, job's taken."

A national minimum wage, which Britain does not have, which Labour wants and which the Tories oppose, would not be "a wage at all" but "the wage of a Mr. Dole queue," he said.

And he stood behind Britain's opt-out from the European Union's social chapter on minimum wages, hours and working conditions, saying it would cost British jobs.

"How can you talk of a social chapter that makes it more difficult for people to find work?"

Mr. Major promised to revamp the ailing National Health Service, whose hospitals are closing and whose services are shrinking, with extra cash.

"Our NHS is unique," he said. "In this country, when

you're ill we take your temperature. In other countries they take your credit card. As long as I'm in Downing Street, that will never happen here."

Mr. Major promised to deal with the growing problem of young repeat offenders with a system of electronic tagging of problem youngsters.

As young as 10, to spot them early and "stop them in their tracks."

On Northern Ireland, where a British soldier died earlier Friday of injuries from an Irish Republican Army bomb attack on a British base, Mr. Major said the IRA had "once again spat their hatred at the British nation."

And he seemed to personally lay blame on Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's Sinn Fein political wing, which traditionally dissociates itself from IRA military operations.

Warrant officer James Bradwell, 43, was murdered in cold blood in the United Kingdom," said Mr. Major. "I sent him there. Mr. Adams, so spare me any crocodile tears. Don't tell me this has nothing to do with you. I don't believe you, Mr. Adams."

And he applauded the Protestant loyalists who "have maintained their ceasefire in the face of the

IRA's provocation," and demanded a decommissioning of IRA weapons in parallel with talks.

The party had begun the conference Tuesday torn to bottom by scandal in parliament and bitter divisions over Britain's place in Europe, particularly a single currency hotly opposed by an increasingly vocal body of Tory Eurosceptics.

But Tory divisions over Europe, although loudly trumpeted in fringe meetings away from the conference hall, appeared to have minimal effect on party unity towards the conclusion.

Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine Thursday rounded on the Tory renegades, warning they would earn only the party's "utter contempt" if they handed Labour power by persisting in dividing their party.

And Chancellor Kenneth Clarke warned his annual budget, due next month, would offer no big tax cuts aimed at winning the elections.

But, he said, "Give us a fifth term" and the Tories would gradually abolish capital gains and inheritance taxes, and cut income taxes for low wage earners.

Khmer Rouge's Pol Pot alive, seen last month

BANGKOK (R) — Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, blamed for the death of more than one million Cambodians, is still alive and was seen last month, a top Thai security source said Friday.

The source told Reuters Friday that the reclusive Pol Pot was last seen by intelligence operatives in northern Anlong Veng in Cambodia last month. He gave no further details.

"The latest he (Pol Pot) was seen was in September in along Veng and he looked fine," the security source added.

The guerrilla leader has not been seen in public for many years and is believed to be hiding in northern Cambodian jungle hide-outs.

Another highly-placed Thai source, who has met Pol Pot several times in the past and tried to persuade him to change his ideology and improve his image, said the Maoist leader refused to change his ways.

"I tried to convince Pol Pot to change (from his harsh style). I took him to temples to listen to the preachings of senior Buddhist monks to change him, but he is too tough and too old to change," said the highly-placed source, who declined to be named.

The source has also met most leading Khmer Rouge hardliners like nominal Khmer Rouge Leader Khieu Samphan and Pol Pot's right hand man Noun Chea, said to be in hiding under the protection of a Thai politician inside Thailand.

"But these people will never regain power and will eventually fade away," the source added.

Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia with an iron hand between 1975-78 when over a million people were killed by executions or overwork and disease in mass labour camps.



New Zealand Labour Party leader Helen Clarke (centre) enjoys a beer with voters in an Auckland inner-city hotel on her election trail Friday. Latest polls suggest Ms. Clarke's Labour Party is rapidly gaining centre stage as a leading party in a coalition government after Saturday's general election (Reuters photo)

Bolger fires last shot in New Zealand election campaign

AUCKLAND (R) — Prime Minister Jim Bolger fired the final shot of his election campaign Friday by imploring New Zealanders to reject failed socialist policies of the past in Saturday's ground-breaking election.

Mr. Bolger, looking relaxed and cracking jokes after a gruelling five-week campaign, said New Zealanders should "rendezvous with history" and move forward with his Conservative National Party.

"This generation of New Zealanders has a rendezvous with history tomorrow," Mr. Bolger said. "You, and those like you around New Zealand, will choose."

New Zealand faces its first election under the German-style Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system after voting out the old British-style first-past-the-post in a 1993 referendum.

MMP is seen favouring coalition governments but national, while leading in opinion polls, has no clear major party ally with which to form a coalition.

Voting starts at 9 a.m. Saturday (2000 GMT Friday), and first results are expected soon after the polls close at 7 p.m. (0600 GMT).

The centre-left Labour Party has closed to within four points of national in the two latest polls and appears best-placed to form a coalition with Nationalist New Zealand first and the backing of the left-wing alliance.

"There is now the real possibility Labour will be able to lead a government and clearly I will be the prime minister in such a government and we will move forward," leader Helen Clark said in a radio



New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger (left) shares a laugh with a supporter and her four-month-old son after a lunchtime address in Auckland as he continued on his election campaign Friday (Reuters photo)

interview.

Ms. Clark, who would be the country's first woman prime minister, promised "a government of change to fix up the huge problems this country has."

National has campaigned on its record of strong economic growth and tax cuts. The opposition parties, especially Labour, have countered with a strong focus on health and education, promising to cut hospital waiting lists and cut student fees.

Studies support the feeling of many New Zealanders that 12 years of free-market economic reforms have widened the gap between rich and poor. Ms. Clark promised an independent commission to tackle "this terrible poverty which I think is corrosive on the whole of society."

Mr. Bolger kept up his good news message on the

economy, saying New Zealand could pay off public debt within seven years if it stayed on the current track. He said there was a mood of economic confidence around the country and he hoped that would be reflected at the ballot box.

The prime minister, whom commentators have accused of running a negative campaign, again attacked the "tax and spend" policies of Labour and the alliance.

"Our Labour-alliance opponents are saying don't pay the debt off so fast, let's spend it up now. That's tempting in one way, until you reflect on our history and then you find it's not tempting at all, because it's just a re-run of what's failed us in the past," he said.

"You cannot tax a country to prosperity. It does not work."

S. African legislators pass new constitution

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — An overwhelming majority of South African legislators passed Friday a revised version of the country's new constitution, which is aimed at "entrenching democratic rule."

President Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC) and the opposition National Party (NP) both supported the new basic law document in the 490-member constitutional assembly, with 426 votes in favour.

Mandela welcomed the passing of the new post-apartheid constitution, saying: "Well, it's a very important, a very historic event."

Standing with the leader of Britain's Labour Party, Tony Blair, who is on a week-long visit to South Africa, Mandela said: "He has come on a historic day for our country. It's very historic indeed."

"And historic in another sense, that the various polit-

ical parties are beginning to find one another. For them to have adopted the constitution and carried out the instructions of the court within the deadline set by the court is a real achievement."

Only the small, African Christian Democratic Party, with two seats, voted against the constitution while the right-wing Freedom Front, with 14 seats, abstained from the vote.

The vote was, however, marred by the absence of the Zulu-nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), whose 48 legislators have boycotted the assembly since March 1995.

The first version of the new constitution was passed without the IFP in May this year.

When the Constitutional Court, the country's highest judicial authority, rejected aspects of the document last month and ordered the assembly to revise it, the IFP seized the opportunity to

rejoin the talks — only to withdraw again a week later.

The IFP, the country's third largest party, has vowed in the past that it will not recognise a constitution passed in its absence.

The pro-federated IFP has repeatedly demanded greater autonomy for its Kwazulu-Natal province stronghold in the east of the country, saying that the new constitution retains the central tendency of the apartheid government.

The IFP boycotted the final sitting of the assembly Friday, despite the fact that its negotiators won last-minute concessions on the powers of tribal chiefs from the ANC in bilateral talks Thursday.

Constitutional assembly chairman Cyril Ramaphosa of the ANC, described the IFP's boycott as "a great disappointment."

"What a positive message it would have given the people of this country to have

all seven parties in the CA today," he told the assembly.

The revised version of the constitution will now go back to the court again for a second attempt at certification. Ramaphosa said implementation of the new constitution was likely to begin "a few short months from now."

Among the document's key elements are that it scraps the enforced coalition government has existed since the country's historic all-race elections in April 1994, and replaces the upper house of parliament, the senate, with a council of provinces.

The implementation of full majority rule will have little impact on the country since the unity government fell apart in July when Frederik De Klerk quit as deputy president and withdrew his National Party from Mandela's cabinet.

Pakistan denies getting Chinese nuclear equipment

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan Thursday denied that it had recently bought nuclear weapons-related equipment from China and complained it had become a victim of inspired leaks in the United States.

The Washington Times reported Wednesday that China had made a new sale of nuclear weapons-related equipment to Pakistan in a move which could increase pressure on the U.S. government to impose sanctions on Beijing.

"We deny that there was any nuclear weapons-related transfer to Pakistan," a Pakistan foreign ministry spokesman told reporters at a news briefing.

"I regret to say that we seem to be becoming the victims of a series of leaks, some of which are... simply motivated by inspired by the electoral fever in the United States and by their own internal shadow-boxing amongst themselves," he said.

"This unfortunate trend gives chances to those lobbies which are motivated against Pakistan to raise these issues. But as happened in earlier cases, I think this also will fade away."

The U.S. state department Wednesday also denied that China had violated a promise to the United States by selling nuclear weapons-related equipment to Pakistan.

But spokesman Nicholas Burns stopped short of denying that the transfer reported by the Washington Times had taken place.

The Times said China sold Pakistan the technology — a special industrial furnace and high-tech diagnostic equipment — last month in violation of a May 11 pledge not to

repeat an earlier covert sale of other nuclear-related items.

But Mr. Burns said: "Senior-level people in this government have looked at these specific charges and, based on the information available to us, we do not conclude that China has violated the commitments it made in its May 11 statement."

His remark left open the possibility that a transfer could have taken place before May 11. A senior state department official, asked if this was the case, said: "I can't confirm that, but that's a possibility."

At a news briefing, Mr. Burns also did not deny the authenticity of a Central Intelligence Agency memorandum cited in the Times report. Instead he denounced what he called "another leak of a highly classified intelligence report."

According to the Times, the Sept. 14 memorandum said the state department sent Beijing a diplomatic note on Aug. 30 protesting at the sale of the equipment to nuclear facilities in Pakistan not subject to international inspection.

It also said senior Chinese leaders probably approved the sale, the Times said. The newspaper quoted Chinese and Pakistani diplomats as denying that any illicit transfer had taken place.

China's pledge not to repeat sales of nuclear technology to Pakistan — a "threshold" nuclear power which has not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty — followed months of negotiations with U.S. officials.

French by-election tests weaknesses of left and right

GARDANNE, France (R) — A by-election to replace bankrupt business mogul Bernard Tapie in parliament, fought out in a depressed working-class town near Marseille, is set to test the weaknesses of France's mainstream left and right Sunday.

Mr. Tapie won the seat in 1993 for the small left-wing radical movement, since re-

named the Radical Socialist Party. At the time, he was boss of the successful Marseille soccer club and minister of urban affairs in a Socialist-led government.

The fast-talking entrepreneur hardly ever returned to his constituency and has since been stripped of his seat after being ruled bankrupt and convicted of fraud, tax evasion and bribery.

His party has picked as its candidate another national political celebrity, former health and humanitarian action Minister Bernard Kouchner, with the backing of the mainstream opposition socialist party, but local residents are deeply suspicious.

"We voted for Mr. Tapie in 1993 and never saw him again. Now they're trying the same thing with Mr. Kouch-

ner. Even if he gets elected, he knows nothing about people's problems here," said a waiter at a bar in the village of Bouc-Bel-Air.

Mr. Kouchner, known internationally as a founder of the medical relief group Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders), showed almost total ignorance of the constituency in a debate with fellow candi-

dates, admitting he did not even know the names of the districts in Gardanne.

His suave Parisian intellectual Oratory III equips him for the rough-and-tumble of provincial politics.

That should have helped his mainstream conservative opponent, Herve Fabre-Aubrespy, defeated by Mr. Tapie in 1993, who has the advantage of being from the region.

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Heeding the alarm

WHEN JORDAN signed the peace treaty with Israel in 1994, it acted out of a firm belief in the necessity for removing the shadow of war from the peoples and the countries of the Middle East. Jordan's action was not in isolation from what was happening in the region. It saw its peace treaty as part of a process which will eventually culminate in bringing about comprehensive peace to the region, a peace which the Jordanians, the Palestinians, the Lebanese, the Syrians, the Israelis and the rest of the peoples of the area would enjoy.

It is thus natural for Jordan to ring the alarm when the policies and actions of the Israeli government are jeopardising the whole process and subjecting the region to the possibilities of renewed violence and even wars. The condescending attitude of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the uncompromising attitude he has adopted in dealing with the Palestinians can only lead to the failure of the negotiations on the Palestinian track. That will mean the collapse of the whole peace process because the Palestinian problem remains the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Netanyahu's stand on the talks with Syria and Lebanon have also reached a deadlock. That means the end of the peace process.

And the collapse of the peace process will mean the end of all hopes for better life in a region in dire need for economic development. Economic frustration will combine with political anger to shatter the popular support for the peace process. The peace process started with the promise of new projects and foreign investment and justice for all. Jordan took a big risk for peace and went further than any expected to prove that peace with Israel can work. But the economic promise did not materialise and Netanyahu's policies are alienating those who believe that Israel will end its oppression of the Palestinians and usurpation of the Syrian and Lebanese rights. In three months that Netanyahu has been in power, all he did was bring about tension to the area once again. This tension will make the political situation worse, by threatening the eruption of violence yet again. It will also make the economic situation worse, scaring away foreign investors who will not commit their money to an unstable market.

Jordan has all these factors in mind when it warns Israel of the disastrous repercussions of its policies. It has the rights of the Palestinians in mind. It has the future of the region in mind and it has the well-being of the people of the area in mind.

His Majesty King Hussein's political wisdom and vision has been recognised by the Israelis as much as it has been by the Arabs and world leaders. So when King Hussein rings the alarm, it means that something is seriously wrong. Netanyahu must listen.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WRITER for Al Ra'i referred to His Majesty King Hussein's interview with Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper this week in which he expressed pessimism over the peace process in light of Israel's intransigent position with regard to the implementation of agreements concluded with the Palestinian leadership. The King seemed to be pessimistic and feeling pained by the turn of events and the Israeli obstacles in the path of peace, said Sultan Al Hattab. Indeed, King Hussein has sounded the alarm and expressed the feelings of the Jordanian people over the lack of progress in the peace process, due to Israel's indifference to the requirements of peace, noted the writer. Jordanians, who backed King Hussein's efforts for the attainment of peace, are frustrated too and bitter at seeing their brothers and sisters in Palestine facing repression and continued occupation, said the writer. The Likud-led government of Benjamin Netanyahu should realise that it is playing with fire when pursuing a policy of imposing hegemony on the Arab region and showing arrogance and lack of respect to the peace agreements concluded with the Palestinians and the countries around Israel, said the writer. He said that Jordan is keen on seeing progress in the peace process, but it is disappointed with and angry at Israel's continued disregard of Arab feelings and rights.

REFLECTING ON the situation in the Palestinian lands and the conditions of the Palestinian people under continued Israeli occupation and aggression, Tayseer Al Tamimi, a writer for Al Ra'i, said that Palestinian towns and villages besieged by the Israeli forces are suffering a great deal and cry out for help. Markets lack the basic food supplies, prices are skyrocketing and unemployment has reached 70 per cent in some areas, said the writer. The industrial, agricultural and commercial sectors have been dealt a severe blow as a result of the Israeli-imposed closure of the Palestinian lands and the Palestinians are facing economic hardships never experienced since the start of occupation in 1967, added the writer. He said that the continuation of closure will not only starve the Palestinians, it will drive them to desperate acts and a new cycle of violence which could be more destructive to the future of this region. The writer said that unless the closure ends and people are given freedom, the Palestinian lands could trigger a spark that would cause a conflagration throughout the whole Middle East.

Jordanian Perspective

No just, comprehensive peace in the Mideast without full respect for Palestinian rights

NO MATTER what one would like to call it, the fact remains that there is a serious strain in relations between Jordan and Israel and there is little chance of an improvement in ties unless the Netanyahu government stops taking the Kingdom for granted, on the one hand, and starts implementing the autonomy accords with the Palestinians, on the other.

It was no surprise that His Majesty King Hussein, long known for his moderate tone and diplomacy, used tough words in describing the current situation in the Middle East peace process and implicitly held Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responsible for the bulk of the problems facing peace-making in the region.

Jordan has been at the forefront of countries repeatedly emphasising that there cannot be just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East without full respect for the complete rights of the Palestinian people. It is not a new political posture; rather it has been the backbone of the Kingdom's approach to the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Netanyahu's actions on the ground clearly indicate that he was only paying lip-service by hailing Jordan's moderation and political acumen in making peace with Israel. Had he listened a little more carefully, he would have definitely understood the key message that Jordan has been trying to give him — essentially that Israel cannot hope to advance its quest to be part of the Middle Eastern order while it continues to refuse the Palestinians their legitimate political and territorial rights.

Mr. Netanyahu's most serious mistake vis-à-vis Jordan appears to have come both in the context of Jordan's position in the region as well as in the Arab World at large and in bilateral terms with Israel.

All indications are that the Israeli prime minister did not give much thought to Jordan's pan-Arab positions and commitments and believed that the Kingdom could be dealt with in isolation from the overall pan-Arab dimension of the Middle East conflict after Jordan made peace with Israel.

On the second count, Mr. Netanyahu seemed to have been taking Jordan for granted and believed that the Kingdom might limit its protest to diplomatic channels over his decision to open a new entrance to the controversial "archaeological/tourist" tunnel in Arab East Jerusalem. There cannot be any other explanation to his failure to inform Jordan of the decision although there were many opportunities for him to do so.

As such, the King's severe criticism of Mr. Netanyahu at the Washington summit and in subsequent comments to the media did not come out of a vacuum. On the contrary, it reflected the deep frustration that Jordan felt over Israel's stubborn refusal to accept the realities of the basic requirements of peace; that is, of course, if Israel is in pursuit of genuine peace.

The Israeli rejection of the King's criticism and his calls on the Jewish state to honour and fulfill its commitments again indicates the short-sightedness of the Israeli right-

wing leaders, including Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani who were obviously not reading the right message when they found it fit to lash back at Jordan.

The King was not criticising Mr. Netanyahu for criticism's sake; rather he was trying to reiterate the realities of the peace process in the hope that the Israeli premier would accept those realities that are part and parcel of the hurdles that all sides have to overcome in the effort for peace in the region.

Jordan has made peace with Israel, but it does not mean that the Kingdom suspended its role in the broader Arab World and had a change of mind in terms of its support for the Palestinians. On the contrary, Jordan has been hoping that the state of peace it achieved with Israel would allow it to play a serious and influential role in overall peace-making in the Arab World. As is obvious from the comments they have made, Israeli leaders do not see it that way. They might even want to see Jordan as a tool to advance their quest for legitimacy in the Middle East.

No, Mr. Netanyahu, your differences with Jordan are not like a rift among close family members. You have not earned yourself the status of a family member and, if you continue to follow the same policies, then it is highly unlikely that you would ever become a member of the family.

Peace cannot make headway with no real commitment

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

THE LOCAL press over the last week focused attention on Jordan's reaction to Israel's intransigent position and its illegal practices in the Palestinian lands and its disregard to the peace agreements, with the unproductive meetings between the Palestinians and the Israelis in Washington and at Beit Hanoun, as well as domestic issues.

King Hussein has warned the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he has to abide by the agreements concluded with the Palestinians if the peace process is to achieve headway, and it is hoped that the Israeli premier will heed the King's words, said Fahed Fanek, a writer for Al Ra'i.

He said that Jordan has maintained a warm peace with Israel since the conclusion of the peace treaty in 1994, and does not intend in any way to go back on its commitments to peace or violate any of the provisions of the peace treaty, but the Kingdom will be forced to turn its back to Israel if the Jewish state proves it is not serious about making just peace with the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular.

Citing King Hussein's words that Mr. Netanyahu was behaving in an unacceptable manner, especially in Jerusalem, the writer said the King is expressing the feeling of his people as well as his own and warning that Jordan would accept peace only when it is just and honourable and not peace at any cost.

King Hussein has sounded the alarm by declaring his opposition to Israel's illegal measures and disregard to the Oslo agreements and has warned Mr. Netanyahu to remain committed to the requirements of peace by deed rather than word, according to Saleh Qallab, a writer for Al Dustour.

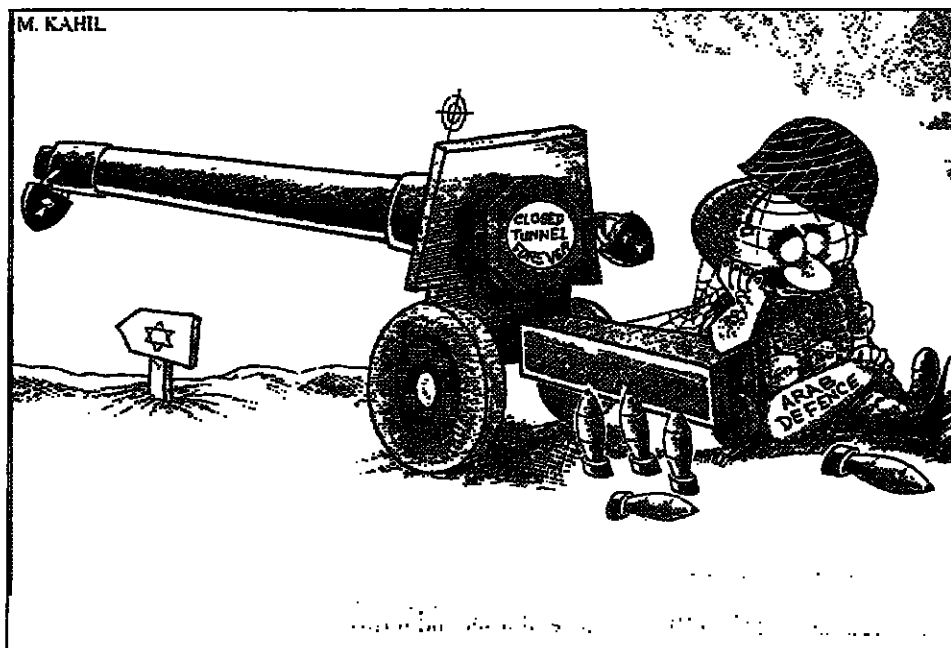
In the Palestinian leadership's view, the Jordanian stand has served as the main lever, exerting pressure on the Israeli government and placed the Israeli prime minister in a very difficult situation, said the writer.

The Israelis realise that Jordan has been honest and sincere and totally committed to the peace process and they must have realised by now that Jordan is not happy at all with Mr. Netanyahu's behaviour and disregard to the peace process, said the writer.

King Hussein has clearly announced that Mr. Netanyahu is endangering the peace process and, said the writer, it is quite reasonable to believe that the Israeli society and the whole world are listening to his warnings.

Jordan, which went through many pains in the course of making peace, can by no means remain passive vis-à-vis Israel's practices

M. KAHIL



and can not unilaterally cling to peace while watching Israel shirk its responsibility regarding its commitments to peace, said Sultan Al Hattab, a writer for Al Ra'i.

In light of Israel's procrastination, deceptions and criminal actions against the Palestinians, Jordan can by no means remain passive or indifferent, said the writer who noted that the King's warnings to Mr. Netanyahu came at a time when Jordanian-Israeli differences over the situation have deepened to a dangerous level.

At the same time, said the writer, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat can by no means control the Palestinian people's rage in light of Israel's continued repressive actions against them, the closure of Palestinian lands and devastation of the Palestinian economy. He said that Mr. Arafat is quite justified when he says that he cannot prevent another intifada to counter Israel's atrocities.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

In order that the Middle East enjoy a comprehensive and just peace, it requires backing from all the Arab countries especially those which were reported to have tried to normalise relations with Israel, said Taher Al Adwan, a writer for Al Dustour.

The Arab states should reconsider their moves towards normalisation with Israel, in light of the behaviour of the present Israeli government, and so exert diplomatic pressure on Mr. Netanyahu to comply with the peace requirements, said the writer.

He added that the Israeli opposition groups, especially the Labour and Meretz parties, can use the Arab countries' firm stand against Israel as a new weapon for fighting their government, forcing it to listen to reason.

Referring to the Cairo Arab summit meeting, the writer said that Arab states ought to remain committed to the summit's resolutions

that called for linking normalisation with Israel with progress in the peace process. Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i, reflected on the Washington summit which was sponsored by the U.S. administration to end the deadlock in the peace process, describing it as a total failure, largely due to the Israeli government's adamant position.

Perhaps the summit succeeded in stopping further violence, but it definitely failed to prevent Israel from pursuing the same policies against the Palestinians and failed to force Mr. Netanyahu to remain committed to the peace requirements, said the writer.

The Washington summit managed to prod the Israelis into resuming the negotiations with the Palestinians, but failed to force Israel to lift the siege on the Palestinians and to end the starvation of the Arab people, he added.

The writer said that Mr. Netanyahu's behaviour and his illegal measures in the Palestinian lands led the Palestinians to unite their ranks and the world community, in general, and the European nations, in particular, to take a firm stand against the Israeli government.

He said that what remains is to see the Arab leaders, meeting at a summit, charter a united strategy to deal with the dangerous situation.

The Palestinians lost nothing by attending the Washington Arab-Israeli summit, but if anything, they won more friends and supporters for their just cause, said Hamadeh Faraaneh, a writer for Al Dustour. At that summit, the Palestinians put forth a just demand: the implementation of the Oslo and Taba agreements, and won the sympathy of the world by pledging to remain committed to the peace process and

do all they can to make it succeed, noted the writer. Furthermore, the Palestinian leadership's endeavours were backed by Jordan, Egypt and the other Arab states, and gathered more pressure to bear down on the Israeli government from European leaders, especially French President Jacques Chirac, added the writer.

He said that the Washington summit has proved to the world that the Palestinians have been right all along and that it is Israel which is obstructing the establishment of a durable peace with the Arab World.

A writer for Al Ra'i drew the Ministry of Education's attention to the fact that many of its schools lack water supplies and said that the present water distribution programme does not meet the school children's needs.

Nazih said perhaps the water supplied to people's houses might be sufficient because each one has its own storage place, but the schools, with hundreds of children, do not have sufficient reservoirs to meet the children's needs, especially in the summer when the demand is high on water.

Since water is an essential element for cleanliness, which is an important factor in averting diseases, said the writer, the Ministry of Education should undertake appropriate measures to ensure the supply of sufficient water for the schools and thus guarantee continued cleanliness and secure drinking water for the children.

A writer for Al Dustour called on the government to take measures to ensure the release of all those detained in connection with the August rioting in the southern towns over the increases in the price of fodder and bread. At the same time, the opposition groups in Parliament ought to stop their demand for the resignation of the government, said Mohammad Subeih.

He said flexibility on both sides leads to building confidence anew and helps restore calm and defuse ten-

sion at a time when the country is faced with domestic and external issues that require unity of ranks and serious efforts on the part of the executive and the legislative authorities. The writer said that the rioting in the south was not

directed against the regime but rather motivated by the bad economic situation for which neither the present government nor the people are responsible. He said magnanimity on the part of the government is required to enhance national unity.

LETTERS

Heads in the sand

To the Editor:

SOMETHING OF a polemic has begun to develop in the Jordan Times over the last few days, and it would be a shame not to stoke the fire a little before it dies down.

The debate began with a letter by Ramiz Batarseh, "Riding the waves," (Jordan Times, Oct. 6, 1996) in which he recounted a hotel-sponsored train ride which took him from Mahatta to the Amman Airport. A good time would have been had by all, it seems, had not the sorry and distressful sight of certain suburbs, "among which those of the most needy," suddenly interposed itself at the train windows and introduced a jarring note on the gleeful mood of the company.

Mr. Batarseh justly expressed his indignation at being "constantly reminded of the huge gap between socio-economic classes." He was even more pained by the fact that foreign tourists, presumably out "to enjoy themselves," should be presented with such a grim picture of the country's poorer areas, however much "waving and smiling" their denizens seem to have indulged in (thus unnecessarily drawing attention to their dilapidated condition) as the train crawled past (as it took two and a half hours to reach the airport, the train probably did not break any speed limit).

On the following day, this spirited narrative was taken to pieces by Baker Hiyari, in the letter "A matter of taste alone?", who accused Mr. Batarseh of representing "complex issues" in an "alienated manner."

It would have been better, Mr. Hiyari went on to suggest, had Mr. Batarseh devoted his attention to existing development programmes in the country instead of venting his anger and frustration in a bout of fruitless and muddled rhetoric.

However constructive Mr. Hiyari's approach may seem, I do not think that he was fair in his criticism. Wilfully, he ignored the real issues at stake — namely, what one sees from one's window seat, and the painful impact of depressing sights on the tender organisms of tourists. And cunningly, he side-tracked the debate into irrelevance, with much talk about development, the means of alleviating poverty and what not.

On the other hand, Mr. Batarseh should have recalled Queen Victoria's gesture on a similar occasion, while she was on a tour of Northern England. As the royal train entered working-class areas, the Queen ordered that the curtains be drawn so as to spare Her Majesty such an uncomely sight.

There, one might suggest, lies the solution to Mr. Batarseh's thorny problem. Employees should be specially appointed to draw the curtains of train windows whenever the shameful spectacle of poverty risks distorting what Mr. Batarseh calls "the image we want to promote for Jordan's tourists." Alternatively, walls could be erected on both sides of the railway tracks, and even be decorated with pretty pictures of ideal bedouins and camels disappearing in the glow of a golden, oriental sunset (this would be more expensive but would generate jobs, thus reconciling Mr. Hiyari's interest in the development of the country with Mr. Batarseh's generous care for the moral well-being of the privileged).

And finally, at the political level, healthy measures like these might be buttressed by new laws forbidding unemployment, poverty, diseases and other evils whose painful spectacle the disfavoured continuously and sardonically visit on the delicate nerves of Mr. Batarseh and his like.

Benoit Tadie, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Boutros Ghali the protector promises fight to bitter end

By David Osborne

NEW YORK — Casting himself as the indispensable protector of an institution bled of funding and credibility by its own member states, Boutros Ghali said he intends to fight to the bitter end for a second term as the Secretary General of the United Nations.

Speaking on the eve of the 51st U.N. General Assembly, opening in New York, Dr. Ghali lamented what he calls the "neo-provincialism" gripping many world governments.

He made plain, for the first time, his intention to defy efforts by America to ditch him when his term expires in December, setting the stage for a bloody and drawn-out battle both within the General Assembly and the Security Council. It is a struggle that, in the view even of many of his friends, risks further enfeebling the U.N. when it can least afford it.

Appearing vigorous and animated in spite of his 73 years, Dr. Ghali defended his record, citing his "successes", ranging from the establishment of peace in Salvador and Mozambique to the adoption of a zero-growth U.N. budget and the holding of a series of world conferences on issues such as poverty and the environment. The debacles of the last five years, including the U.N.'s aborted mission in Bosnia, were ultimately the responsibility of member governments, he claimed.

Since the Clinton administration announced in June that it would veto a second Ghali term, the former Egyptian foreign minister has adopted a low profile.

He said, however, that he bridled at the suggestion that, by not offering to stand down when his first term ends on December 31, he was risking further damage to the U.N. "If I was convinced by this I

would not hesitate to leave," he said.

"On the contrary, I believe that my departure would create more problems for this institution. Because you need the continuity at this particular period. We have begun a series of reforms: it is important if not to achieve them completely — it is a continuous process — then to achieve at least a certain amount of them."

He also rejected the argument that after five difficult years, at the end of which the U.N. finds itself effectively bankrupt with \$2.9 billion owed to it by delinquent member states (the U.S. alone owes \$1.6 billion), the organisation would benefit from a fresh face at the top.

"I don't believe that this is related to a face, a new face or an old face," he said. "The crisis began 20 years ago. And the crisis is more related to the transition period in which we are living than to the face of the secretary general."

Dr. Ghali, who throughout the interview in his 38th-floor sanctum atop the U.N. headquarters fiddled with a piece of tissue paper, rehearsed at length a theory that the world powers are struggling to cope simultaneously with establishing a new post-cold war international order and adjusting to the new era of instant global information. In these circumstances, he said, governments have yet to define fully what the U.N.'s new role should be.

He noted that a summit-level meeting of the Security Council convened by John Major, the British prime minister, in February 1992 coincided with a time of unprecedented confidence in the U.N. "This organisation was at a peak and everyone was looking at the U.N. — the pendulum was extremely on one side. Now the pendulum is on the other side. This just proves that the

international community don't know exactly what they want."

At the same time, he suggested many governments have taken their eye off world affairs. "You find this neo-provincialism, neo-isolation. The great majority of the member states are not interested in international affairs. This is the real problem we face."

He acknowledged, however, that the member states were simultaneously battering the U.N. and its credibility by repeatedly using it as a scapegoat when international peace efforts go awry. "Who is damaging the U.N.?" he asked. "The member states. I am doing my best to defend the organisation, to explain how damaging it is for the organisation (to be made into a scapegoat)."

Dr. Ghali rejected accusations that he has not been strong enough in standing up for the U.N. when it has been given jobs beyond its capability by the Security Council. "On the contrary, that is why I have so many problems now, because I have been too... independent." He insisted that ultimately he is the servant of the Security Council. "I have been firm very often, but once a decision is taken you have to carry it out. The U.N. has no army, the U.N. has no money, the U.N. has no infrastructure. We are borrowing everything from the member states so it would be useless to say no or not to obtain the agreement of the member states."

The U.N. floundered in Bosnia, he asserted, because it was asked to defend safe havens without the 34,000-strong force that he requested. (Eventually the U.N. force numbered just over 7,000). "The mistake was not only the number was not corresponding to the number we demanded, but that it

took two years to get up to this number, and the soldiers came with very light armaments. It was a mistake... of the international community."

Dr. Ghali flatly refused to address, specifically, the prospect that while the U.S. remains opposed to him his chances of winning are, in effects, zero. Of the justness of his cause, he has no doubts. "I believe that we have to try to defend this organisation and contain this terrible crisis. I want to be reelected to be able to continue the reform."

Mysteries of Article 97

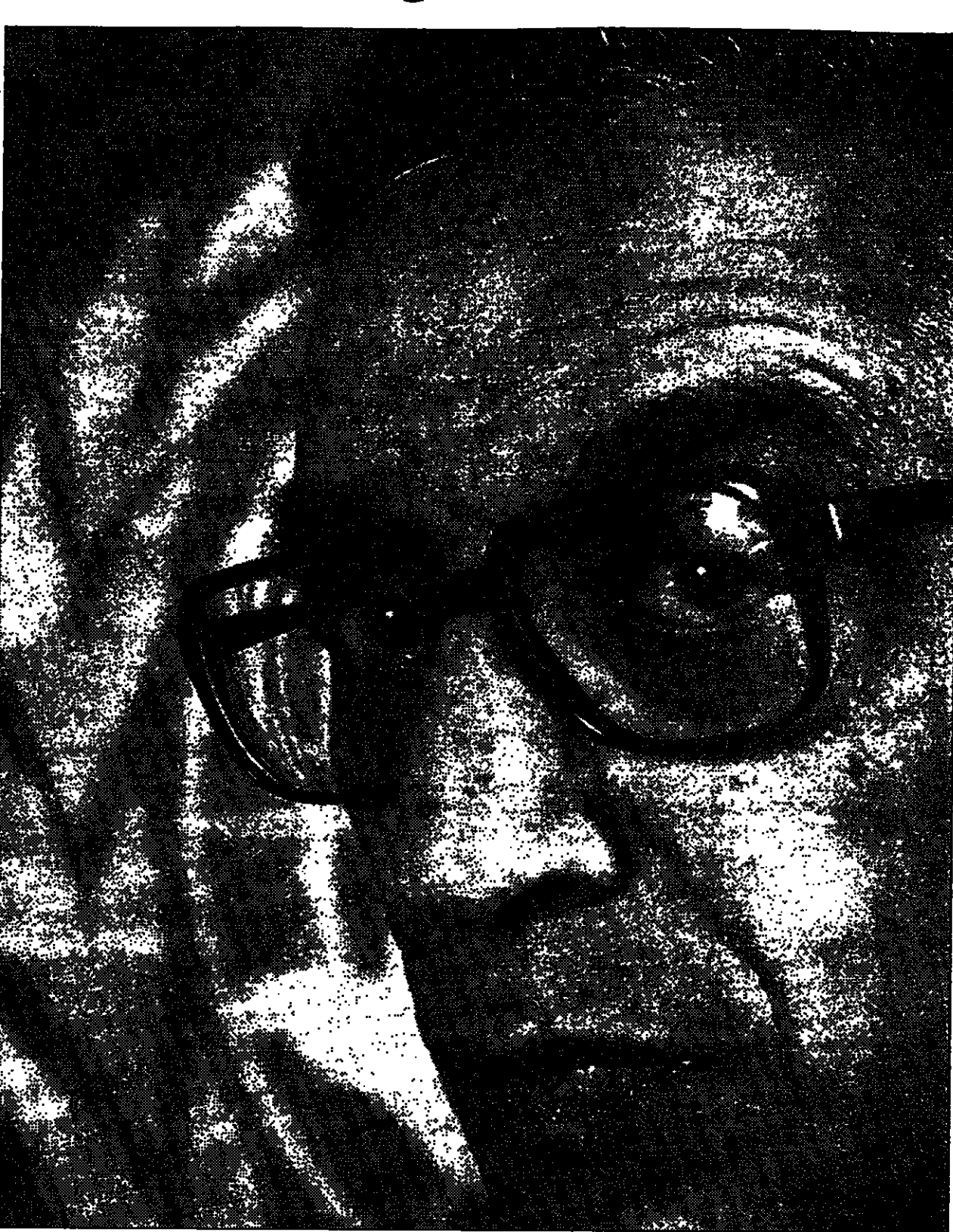
Criticised as Byzantine and undemocratic in its secrecy, the procedure for choosing a United Nations secretary general is an exercise in horse-trading at the highest levels of world diplomacy. Only the election of the Pope equals it in mystery.

What is meant to happen is laid out briefly in Article 97 of the U.N. Charter. It says that the General Assembly will approve the appointment of a secretary-general for a renewable five-year term. A single candidate must be recommended to the assembly beforehand by the Security Council.

Boutros-Ghali's first term expires on December 31. Thus the council must soon debate the identity of the next secretary general. Eventually, it will have to vote on whom to put forward to the assembly.

Only the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain can exercise a veto. No candidate can survive the selection process if vetoed. Thus if the U.S. blocks Dr. Ghali, his prospects must be bleak. (He would be the first secretary-general not given a chance at a second term).

So far, there is only one other declared candidate: Hamid Algabid of Niger, a former head of the Organ-



Boutros Ghali

isation of Islamic Conference (OIC). Other names mentioned have included: Leticia Shahani, the president of the Senate of the Philippines, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Norway's prime minister, Mary Robinson, president of Ireland, Sadako Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and Kofi Annan, a Ghanaian U.N. peacekeeping official.

The Independent

N. Korea pachinko prize under pressure

TOKYO (R) — As Japan joins world efforts to help stave off hunger in North Korea, a longtime source of subterranean cash for the ailing Communist country may ironically be drying up in Japan just when it is most needed.

Pachinko, a cacophonous slot machine and pinball hybrid which boasts 30 million players across Japan, has grown so big that mainstream companies have moved into what was once a shady preserve of ethnic minorities like North Koreans, and mobsters.

The once-looked down on game has even made its way into the pages of the journal of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan with an examination of the possibilities of profit for U.S. firms in joining the craze.

"This 30 trillion yen (\$275 billion) industry is too big to let foreigners and outlaws control the entire loot," the Journal said in a comprehensive survey of the industry last month.

Many of Japan's leading electronics firms, long involved in making pachinko equipment, have moved into running the parlours themselves as the game becomes more accepted by the mainstream, it said.

This is bad news for North Korea as industry sources believe that until recently one-third of Japan's 19,000 pachinko halls — gaudy gaming galleries found near almost every train station and stretch of highway — were run by ethnic Korean supporters of North Korea.

North Korean supporters account for about one-third of Japan's 666,000-member ethnic Korean community, almost all descendants of

workers and students who came to Japan while Korea was a Japanese colony in the first half of the century.

Although all but the very oldest were born in Japan and speak Japanese as their first language, they cling proudly to their Korean names and identity and have been a key source of hard cash and technology for their isolated homeland.

The North Korean community's pachinko interests — a legacy of early post-war years when Japanese shunned an industry thought of as dirty and cheap — generate a subsidy to Pyongyang of about 60 billion yen (\$550 million) a year, Japan's public security investigation agency has estimated.

The pachinko fund constitutes a significant portion of the \$1.8-\$2 billion Japanese and Western intelligence officials estimate Korean residents in Japan remit to Pyongyang annually.

The amount is probably the largest single foreign exchange earner for North Korea and any threat to it as Pyongyang's economy falters more and more would be a major setback.

Other sources of cash for North Korea from Japan's ethnic Koreans include two-way trade — mostly in cheap textiles and foodstuffs, which totalled \$600 million in 1995 — and money carried by the roughly 5,000 Korean residents in Japan who travel to North Korea by ferry each year.

But some Japanese economists have said the pachinko figure is exaggerated, and local media recently reported that the figure is more like 10 billion yen (\$91.7 million).

If there is disagreement about the amount, most analysts agree the cash flow has started to dry up — along with ethnic Korean loyalties to

Pyongyang — since the death in July 1994 of North Korea founder Kim Il-Sung.

Given the secrecy that shrouds everything that goes on in North Korea, there seems something appropriate about the country's single main foreign exchange source being equally murky.

The pachinko industry, traditionally cash-based, has topped the list of tax evaders for 11 successive years, according to the national tax administration agency.

A Japanese government survey of leisure industries put 1995 pachinko revenues at 32 trillion yen (\$293 billion), up from 1.3 trillion in 1980 and a sum that eclipses turnover in many of Japan's key manufacturing sectors.

Despite its status as a legal activity in a country where gambling is illegal, pachinko straddles a grey zone because winning players can trade their token prizes — chocolates or cigarette lighters — for cash.

To reduce the tax dodging and better trace the flow of funds to North Korea and to organised crime, Japanese authorities in the late 1980s began pushing operators to switch to prepaid pachinko cards to eliminate the use of cash.

Although the system has been plagued by card counterfeiters, prepaid cards are now used by about 70 per cent of parlours and have cut the cash flow for parlour operators, analysts say.

The pro-North General Association of Korean Residents in Japan declines to comment on the flow of cash to Pyongyang. "Support for North Korea compatriots from Korean households throughout Japan is entirely spontaneous, although our organisation does provide logistical help," said Li Tal-Kuk, a spokesman at the group's Tokyo headquarters.

Implement all agreements, Jordan to tell Israel

(Continued from page 1)

the King's position will have a strong impact on the Israeli people.

"Israelis look the relations with Jordan as an example of how peaceful relations" in the region should be, said Mr. Rifai. Dr. Hamarneh said the seriousness of the rift with Jordan will ring alarm bells about how dangerous is the deadlock which the peace process has hit.

But the strain in ties is having a completely different impact on the King-

dom's opposition, which said the development in the West Bank and in ties between Israel and Jordan vindicates its position that "it is impossible to have peace with the Jewish enemy."

"It has become clear that the treaties and agreements that have been signed by some Arab governments and the Zionist entity have done nothing but serve realising the Zionist programme and give the Arabs nothing but mirage," opposition lawmakers said in a statement faxed to the Jordan Times Friday.

The lawmakers demanded that the Kingdom annul the peace treaty with Israel, "kick out" the Israeli ambassador in Amman and prepare the people for "jihad" against Israel.

The lawmakers made the same call to other Arab countries, reminding them that the Palestinian problem and Jerusalem were a pan-Arab responsibility which should not be left to the Palestinian National Authority to negotiate.

Spokesman of the Islamic Action Front Hamzeh Mandour described as insufficient the Jordanian criticism of the Israeli policies, saying nothing short of cancelling the peace treaty will be acceptable to the opposition.

"Words are not enough," he said. "We want to see words translated into action by cancelling the peace treaty."

Observers say the more public and intense the strain in Jordanian-Israeli ties the more vocal the opposition will be in its resistance to ties with the Jewish states and to the process of normalisation.

They said the continued stalemate on the Palestinian track of the negotiations will help the opposition in its drive to slowdown if not end the process of normalisation.

According to Dr. Hamarneh, this process has already started to slow down. He said that people are becoming more reluctant to normalise ties with Israel. "Even in academic circles," he said, "there is a clear slowdown in interaction between Jordanians and Israelis."

Erbakan seeks solace in applause

(Continued from page 1)

of steady leadership for nine months before Welfare entered government in June.

Mr. Erbakan has so far failed in promises to solve a 12-year-old Kurdish rebel campaign through "Muslim Brotherhood". Populist measures, like 50 per cent wage rises for more than seven million civil servants, have burdened the shaky economy.

Turkey's top banker rang alarm bells on the economy on Friday, predicting a sharp increase in deficits this year. However, gloomy scenarios will be far from Mr. Erbakan's mind on Sunday — at least temporarily. Congress organisers promise a spectacular show, including laser displays, fireworks and use of the latest video techniques.

Welfare, the most disciplined party in Turkey, looks to be firmly behind Mr. Erbakan after he snuffed out a leadership challenge to a provincial party boss close to him last month.

However, they have been adamant about not changing the original Hebron agreement.

"There is a clear attempt by Netanyahu to change the agreements, if not directly, then indirectly," Mr. Arafat said Thursday. "Clearly Netanyahu must know that no one can threaten the Palestinians."

Nonetheless, negotiations on Hebron were to resume next week. Mr. Arafat said Thursday that the Palestinians were not intimidated by Israel's siege of West Bank towns that was imposed during three days of gunbattles last month between Israeli

troops and Palestinian police. Sixty-one Palestinians, 15 Israeli soldiers and three Egyptian soldiers were killed in the violence.

During the siege, which was gradually lifted from most towns this week, tanks and sharpshooter positions ringed the Palestinian areas. "We are not afraid of their armoured cars or tanks or helicopters," Mr. Arafat said.

PLO security chief expects Hebron deal

(Continued from page 1)

Mordechai. Sixty thousand Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip worked in Israel before suicide bombings in February and March prompted Israel to stop most of them from coming in. The closure was then gradually eased.

About 19,500 Palestinians worked in Israel before last month's violence. Asked about the announcement, Major General Abdul Razeq Al Majayda, commander of Palestinian police forces in Gaza, told Reuters: "We were not informed about this. We have no idea."

It was unclear how long it would take Israel to carry out security checks and issue work permits to 35,000 labourers. In a statement, Mr. Mordechai's spokesman said the defence minister decided to ease restrictions "in order to reduce the hardship of the Palestinian population...and the Palestinian economy."

But Mr. Mordechai instructed the Israeli army in the West Bank and Gaza to "remain in their reinforced deployment, so that they can provide a suitable response to any possible development," the spokesman said.

On Monday, at least nine people were killed at Laghouat, 300 kilometres south of the capital.

Guerrillas stopped the victims at a false roadblock and mowed them down, witnesses said. Unofficial reports spoke of 36 dead.

And on Wednesday a teacher was killed and five wounded in an attack on a training centre at Ouled Yaiche, close to Blida 50 kilometres south of Algiers.

A pupil was also killed on Monday by a grenade in the same area. Western sources believe at least 50,000 people have been killed since the violence erupted in 1992.

Bomb in busy Algerian market kills three

(Continued from page 1)

27 people were killed. It was the first in a series of civilian massacres.

The following Friday, Oct. 4, four men armed with axes and daggers killed, decapitated and mutilated four Muslims at prayer in a mosque at Tidjelabine, 50 kilometres east of Algiers.

The four burst into the prayer session, spotted their victims and killed them in front of the panicked crowd.

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EU, Jordan formalise \$125m aid agreement

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The European Union (EU) and Jordan have signed a formal agreement under which the Kingdom would get EU aid worth 100 million European Currency Units (about \$125 million) to help its economic restructuring programme.

The agreement, which was called for in an aide memoire on EU structural adjustment support for Jordan initiated on Sept. 11, was signed on Thursday by Planning Minister Rima Khalaf and Yves Gazzo, head of the European Commission delegation in Amman. The commission is the executive arm of the 15-member European bloc.

Jordan is expected to get the EU aid in two tranches — 60 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$75 million) this month and the rest after a mid-November EU mission assesses the progress in the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme.

The EU will also make available another seven million ECUs (\$8.75 million) in assistance to Jordan under an accord expected to be signed soon.

According to the European Commission, the EU support for Jordan "aims at alleviating the external and fiscal pressures on the Jordanian economy and reducing the social cost of reforms."

"It underscores the EU's commitment to Jordan's key role in the peace process and to the success of the ambitious objectives of its new economic reform programme for 1996-98," the commission said in a statement following the signing of the accord on Thursday.

It said the grant "will, in particular, assist in the implementation of these reforms, which the agreement states are critical to ensure the smooth operation of a free-trade area between Jordan and the EU" under an association agreement under negotiation.

"Steps towards trade liberalisation, privatisation and design of a modern tax system are part of the new reforms necessary to ensure that Jordan benefits from unprecedented opportunities offered by the peace process and accession" to the World Trade

Organisation, the EU commission noted.

The agreement specifies the objective of the grant as "provision of budgetary support, enhancement of structural reforms and easing of social reforms and improvement of the social safety net."

The commission said that the EU "foresees that, by alleviating balance of payment constraints, the present grant will also assist Jordan in achieving high growth rates, which, according to the EU, is the most effective means to reduce unemployment and poverty."

The economic restructuring programme that Jordan is implementing calls for a deficit-free fiscal budget and zero deficit in external balance of payments by the year 1998 with measures implemented under the supervision of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The EU aid package came from the bloc's Mediterranean economic development assistance programme and raises its direct contribution to Jordan's economic reform programme to more than \$250 million since 1992.

The package is separate from a four-year protocol under which the EU granted about \$150 million to Jordan between 1993 and 1996.

The Kingdom and the EU are currently negotiating the so-called association agreement under which the EU countries would offer preferential status to goods originating in Jordan while also guiding the Kingdom to improve the quality of products.

Officials say they hope that the negotiations could be wrapped up before the end of the year and a final deal signed before the New Year.

In addition to the aid from the EU as a bloc are expected bilateral assistance from EU countries including Germany, Britain and France. No definite figures are available yet.

The \$125 million EU assistance is part of \$600 million in foreign aid that Jordan is expecting before the end of the year. Included in the figure is an accord signed last month under which the U.S. Export Import Bank will extend credit for Jordanian imports of American products and services worth \$200 million.

North, South lock horns at U.N. over investment

GENEVA (R) — Developed countries and business leaders locked horns with key emerging economies at a United Nations forum on Thursday over whether they should work for a global accord setting rules for foreign investment.

While the European Union, Canada and Japan argued that discussion on a possible pact should begin soon in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), delegates from India and Egypt insisted it was too early to launch such talks.

The Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) called for quick movement to a deal to remove current limits on foreign direct investment (FDI) in some countries and ensure equal treatment for external and internal capital.

But a Malaysian speaker from a non-governmental body promoting Third World causes said giving trans-national corporations (TNCs) absolute rights

enforced by WTO rules would amount to a return to the colonial era.

The debate was sponsored by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which called the forum to help clarify positions on the issue before the first ministerial conference of the WTO in Singapore in December.

In a report last month UNCTAD reported that FDI was running at a record level of \$315 billion in 1995 and growing at a faster rate than world trade as TNCs move rapidly to build up global business structures.

All sides in the debate recognise that investment and how it is handled is one of the key issues facing policy-makers in the globalising world economy.

The EU and its trade commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, has been pushing for an agreement to be endorsed at Singapore to start talks in the WTO on the possibility

of an investment accord, which its backers say would benefit both North and South.

But opponents — mainly some Asian and African countries — fear that any discussion in the world trade body would inevitably turn into full-scale negotiations and end in an accord that would tie them to strict rules on how to treat FDI.

They feel they are under increasing pressure — both from the WTO which issues a report next week which its director-general Renato Ruggiero says will make a "compelling case" for talks, and also from UNCTAD, once a major critic of TNCs.

Friedrich Hamburger, European director for development policy, told the forum Brussels felt it had good arguments "why we need to work on investment issues, why that should be done in the WTO, and why we should start now."

"A level playing field and

commonly applied rules increase investment confidence at all levels — locally, regionally and globally," he said.

But India's minister of state for commerce, B.B. Ramiah countered that each country "must retain full competence to regulate and determine the role of FDI in the overall canvas of its development priorities."

And China's assistant minister of trade Long Yong-Tu said different levels of development and social priorities meant the suggestion that every country had to be equal before the rules in a WTO accord was "hypocritical and unrealistic."

India, China and Egypt insisted the discussion should remain in UNCTAD — which under its new secretary-general Rubens Ricupero, former Brazilian finance minister, is shaping a new role as a genuine meeting point between North and South.

Yeltsin creates tax commission to ease wage crisis

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin Friday announced the creation of a special commission to improve tax collection to provide cash to pay off a huge backlog of wages to state sector workers, servicemen and pensioners.

In a brief radio address highlighting two serious problems facing the Russian economy — poor tax collection and mounting wage arrears — Mr. Yeltsin said the need to create the commission reflected the "extraordinary situation" in Russia.

"Payment of salaries and pensions is not only a ques-

tion of politics and economy. It is also a question of conscience," he said.

"I may assure pensioners and the workers of budget sphere, policemen and servicemen. Pensions and salaries will be paid. I, as president, am confident of it."

Dismal tax collection has curbed the government's ability to fulfill its spending plans and cast a shadow over the possible approval of the 1997 budget, which the lower house of parliament was debating.

Deputies are expected to reject the draft, which envisages a tight deficit of 3.3 per

cent of gross domestic product.

Mr. Yeltsin, 65, said Thursday that big business tax dodgers meant problems with state spending.

"Students, teachers, the military and other workers in the state sphere are not receiving wages because a number of big enterprises are literally taking the finances of the country by the throat and

refusing to pay taxes," Mr. Yeltsin said.

That is unlikely to appease his communist opponents, who dominate the State Duma and are set to lead demands that the government revise its austere 1997 budget.

If parliament rejects the plan, the government has 20 days to come up with new proposals.

South Korea freezes salaries

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's top economic planner Han Seung-Soo has announced a policy package aimed at improving efficiency and fighting inflation, announcing a freeze on salaries for senior government officials.

"In order to help curb wage hikes, the government has decided to set an example," Mr. Han said, announcing a freeze

on next year's wage hikes for officials of director-level rank or up.

Mr. Han, economy and finance minister, said the measure was aimed at nudging private sector businesses to resist demands for any double-digit wage increases.

Laying out the package, the government for the second time in as many months readjusted upward its prospect for

the 1996 current account deficit and downgraded its forecast for gross domestic product growth.

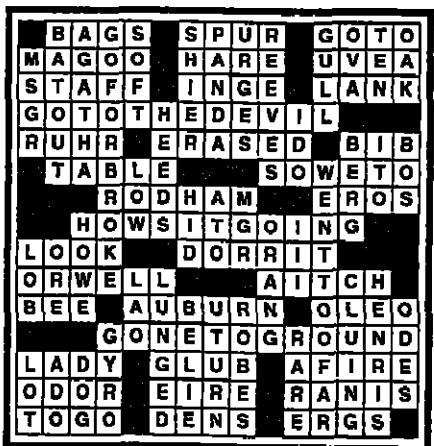
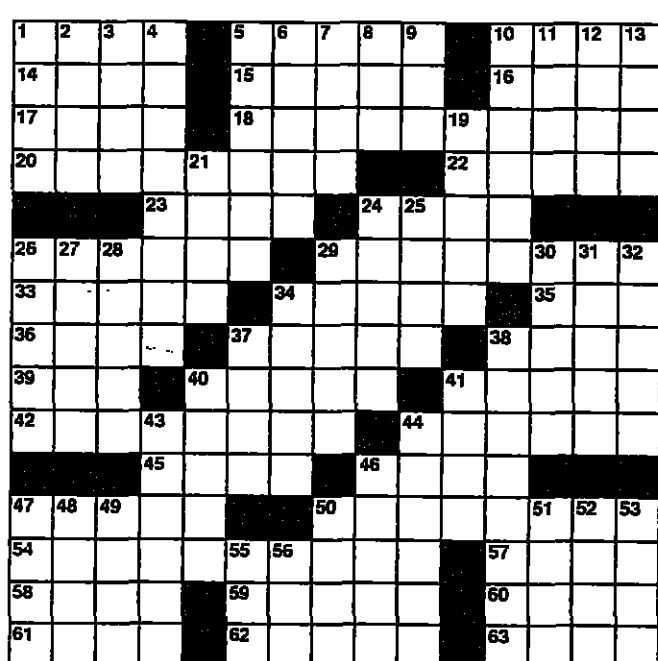
The current account deficit, which has consistently outstripped government expectations, is now expected to surpass \$15 billion by the end of this year, up from an earlier forecast of \$12 billion.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Woeful word
- 5 Navigational system
- 10 Abates
- 14 Lagomorph
- 15 Jagged
- 16 Stir up sediment
- 17 Arabian governor
- 18 Reflect
- 20 Lyric poem
- 22 Leveled to the ground
- 23 Did well on an exam
- 24 Mountain lake
- 26 Swap
- 29 Newly married man
- 33 Bitter —
- 34 Flavorful
- 35 Neither's partner
- 36 Arduous
- 37 All-night watch
- 38 Taj Mahal site
- 39 "These — the times..."
- 40 Medicated
- 41 General
- 42 Never to be forgotten
- 44 Livestock
- 45 Sense
- 46 Instance
- 47 City of Israel
- 50 Regard with reverence
- 54 Prepared for imminent danger
- 57 Holly
- 58 Musical
- 59 Carnivorous mammal
- 60 Jal —
- 61 See to
- 62 Antlered animal
- 63 Catalogue

by Philip J. Anderson



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- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| DOWN | 27 Frighten | 28 Composer Ned | 29 Lox holder | 30 Shaped mass of metal | 31 Reef material | 32 Craft | 33 Cordage fiber | 34 Select | 38 Through route |
| 1 Attention-getter | 2 Prayer wheel | 3 Gobi-like | 4 Like some knives | 5 Business book | 6 Nymph | 7 Turn over and over | 8 "Do — say..." | 9 Beak | 10 Short trip (but essential) |
| 11 Husband of Ruth | 12 Be taken in by a ploy | 13 Luge | 19 Goofed | 21 Finishes the cake | 24 Not hot, not cold | 25 Blue dye | 26 Certain religious adherent | 40 Great fear | 41 Foundation |
| 43 Miff | 44 Part of a saddle | 46 Goddess of agriculture | 47 Emcee | 48 Pay up | 49 Persia, today | 50 Forbid | 51 "— want for..." | 52 Some parties | 53 Leave |
| 55 Branch | 56 Member of a Buddhist people | | | | | | | | |

THE BETTER HALF.

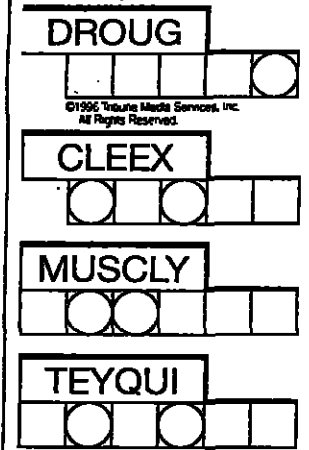
By Glasbergen



"You don't look anything like the man I married, but the police said the fingerprints match."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

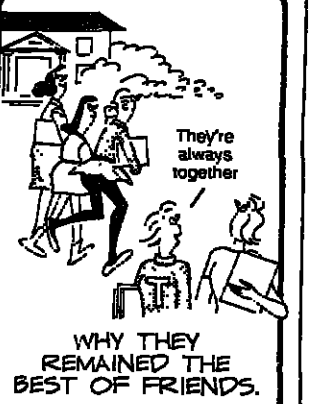


Print answer here: THEY

Saturday's Jumbles: BASSO LAUGH MARLIN ARMADA
Answer: How they described their work on the instruction book — MANUAL LABOR

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

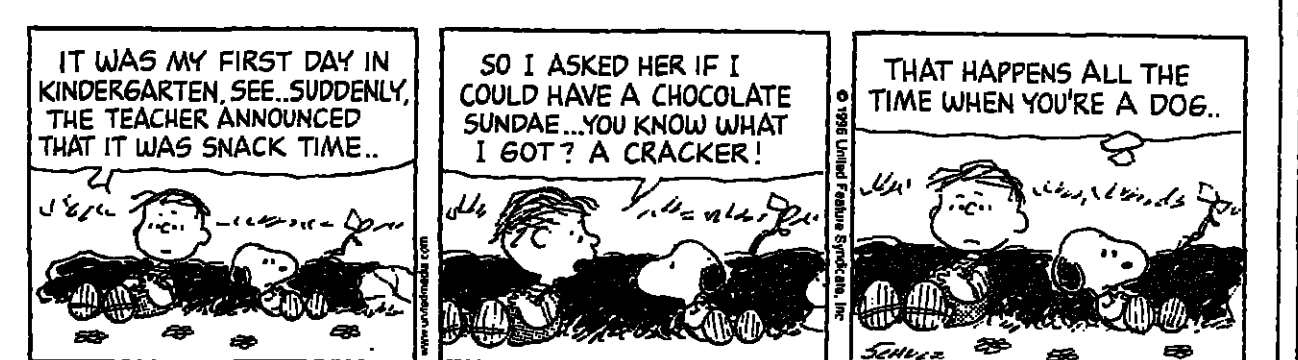
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argenton



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

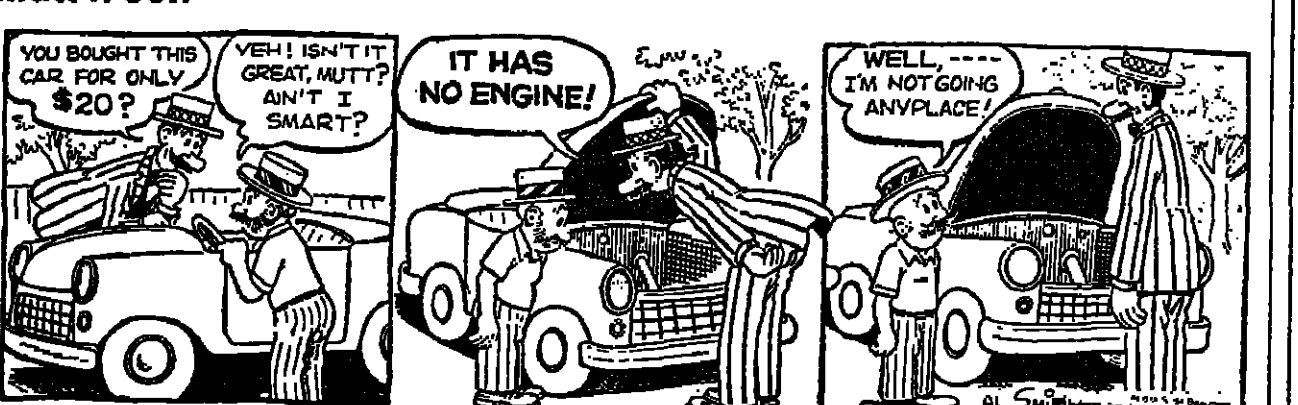
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson
Astrologer, Carrol
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Early today improve conditions around the house and then you can be happier. Try to please your mate later in the evening and you will find that he or she will appreciate all of the attention given.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) The morning today is good for handling correspondence and taking care of whatever pressing activities need to be handled. Later this evening you can wander about town have a wonderful time with your close friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan how best to add today to your present income and start making progress towards financial well-being. Later this evening you can contact a bigwig for the support you desire and thereby gain prosperity from your efforts.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go after personal aims today which have been hard to attain most recently. Discuss plans with a friend and you can make decisions which have been pressing, especially those of a career oriented nature and have been put off.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Handle private affairs early in the day today, so that you will have some free time to devote yourself to your loved ones. Invite guests in during the evening and have a nice time while you are in their company.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Go after whatever is hard to gain during labour days and you will get good results in the days ahead. Give praise to fellow associates for their assistance in whatever project comes up and you can be quite prosperous.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be magnetic today and do something which will be helpful to a fellow associate you like. Fix up your home and make it a show place for those who visit and thereby increase the financial value and have money which exists.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make appointments with others today for any mutual activities you want to enjoy and you can have fun times. Drive carefully later this evening, especially while you are on the highway and with your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get some project completed today with your mate and later this evening you can enjoy other close family and which have been put aside and which you have a desire to strengthen for the days ahead with loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Try to do what a fellow associate expects of you and later this evening you can be with a friend who has a fine sense of humour and can make you laugh with whatever is said, so have a good time in his or her company.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can complete career activities which you like today and later this evening a superior or will assist you in seeing opportunities which have developed for the days ahead and then you can gain success in your endeavours.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be with people you admire today and you will be able to converse with this person answers to your questions concerning career activities. Find new interests which can bring success to you in the days ahead.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline



AFM weakens on tense Arab-Israeli relations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Amman — Turnover and prices slipped at the Jordanian stock exchange this week as uncertainties over the Mideast peace process, particularly Jordanian-Israeli relations, grew despite the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli peace

talks following an Arab-Israeli summit in Washington early this month, brokers said Friday.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said turnover for the business week ending Thursday was 3.4 million dinars compared with the previous week's 3.5 mil-

lion dinars.

The report said 2.7 million shares changed hands under 2,212 deals during the week, with the average daily trading at 680,000 dinars compared with the previous week's 700,000 dinars.

The official AFM share price index based on 60

major companies closed at 147.22 points, down 0.37 points or 0.25 per cent from the week's opening of 149.59 points.

Commercial banks and financial companies accounted for 1.68 million dinars of the weekly volume, followed by industries with 1.32 million dinars, service sector firms with 360,000 dinars and insurance companies with 33,000 dinars.

Sectoral indices showed that industries slipped by 0.58 per cent, commercial banks and financial institutions by 0.07 per cent, insurance firms by 0.06 per cent and service sector firms by 0.39 per cent.

Stocks of 83 companies were traded during the week, with 17 of them closing with gains, 43 slipping and 23 remaining unchanged, the AFM report

said.

Brokers said the decline in the market was a direct result of fears sparked by last month's Palestinian-Israeli violence over Israel's opening of a new entrance to an archaeological/tourist tunnel in Arab East Jerusalem in an open Israeli challenge to Arab and Muslim claims to the holy city.

In Jordan, the Israeli move and the subsequent violence followed by Amman's severe criticism sparked fears that Jordanian-Israeli relations are on a slide and that this could seriously affect economic cooperation between the two sides.

"Many investors have been betting on increased Jordanian-Israeli trade and economic cooperation, but the recent flare-up and the obvious strain in Jordan's

ties with Israel were seen as a serious hurdle in quick realisation of the hopes," said an AFM dealer, who, like other Jordanian stockbrokers, cannot be identified by name.

The broker and other AFM dealers said prices could pick up only if serious signs emerge that Jordan and Israel have healed the rift and resume their moves towards close economic cooperation.

"There are of course other elements such as the flow of funds into the market, interest rates and the entry of primary shares into the second market etc.," said the broker, "but, for the moment, investors are seized with the developments in the Israeli-Palestinian track and the Jordanian-Israeli front."

World Bank cuts budget, increases disbursements in fiscal 1996

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The World Bank has reduced its fiscal 1996 administrative budget by 3.6 per cent while boosting disbursements to member countries.

The bank, in a report on its financial year ending June 30, said assistance pledged to the poorest countries — those with per capita gross national product of \$765 or less — came to \$9.883 billion.

Of the total, \$6.327 billion was administered through the International Development Association (IDA), a unit of the bank making no-interest loans to poor countries.

The rest came from another arm of the World Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), which deals mainly with countries with stronger credit positions.

The IDA in 1996 disbursed \$5.884 billion, an increase of \$181 million over the previous period, while disbursements from the IBRD rose \$700 million to \$13.372 billion.

"The report details a critical period in the history of the World Bank group," said bank president James Wolfensohn.

He described it as "one of transition designed to create an institution that is stronger, more agile and more effective in response to the needs of its developing country clients."

Added Gautam Kaji, bank managing director for operations: "Our support for (economic) growth has increased as we disbursed more money last year than ever before."

He said the bank took note of two global trends, "the rapid growth of private investment flows to developing countries and the ... levelling off of official development assistance."

For fiscal 1997, according to the report, the World Bank administrative budget will amount to \$1.177 billion, which will be the third consecutive year of a decline in net administrative expenses.

The report highlighted the creation of a \$150 million trust fund for Bosnia-Herzegovina, which provided funding for seven projects at early terms.

Assistance worth \$150 million was also extended to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The bank committed \$1.63 billion and raised another \$1.64 billion from other sources for 20 new environmental projects.

Assistance to private sector projects totalled \$5.6 billion in fiscal 1996, according to the bank.

In new 1996 loan commitments, the IBRD and the IDA pledged \$21.520 billion for 256 projects, down from \$22.522 billion and 242 projects in 1995.

The sharpest increase in new loan commitments was in the Middle East and North Africa, where 21 projects worth \$1.595 billion were pledged, compared with 14 projects worth \$979 million in 1995.

The three largest borrowers from the IBRD were China, \$2.49 billion, Russia, \$1.816 billion and Argentina, \$1.509 billion.

From the IDA, the main borrowers were India, \$1.3 billion, Vietnam, \$502 million, and China, \$480 million.

French company lends \$7.5m to establish hospital in Jenin

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement was signed between the French company ACS and the Palestine Speciality Hospital according to which the French company will extend a \$7.5 million loan to establish a 50-bed public hospital in Jenin, Palestine.

The hospital, which will cost about \$11 million, will be equipped with advanced equipment through the French company. The construction work will start within three months.

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	GBP	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF	DM	CHF
US Dollar	1.5306	1.2547	111.63	1.3528	1524.70	1.7170	5.1835		
DE Mark	0.6533	0.4143	0.8191	0.8835	993.81	1.1212	3.3829		
GB Sterling	1.5760	1.5760	1.9758	2.1320	2397.36	2.7036	8.1591		
CH Franc	0.7870	121.93	0.5053	88.36	1.0777	1212.97	136.79	4.1269	
JP Yen	0.0090	1.3708	0.5681	1.2337	1.2115	13.65	153.82	4.6395	
CA Dollar	0.7392	N/A FL	N/A FL	N/A FL	1.21	N/A FL	N/A FL	N/A FL	
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0032	0.4158	0.0822	1367.43	0.8867	11.26	3.3955	
NL Guilder	0.5824	89.14	0.3692	73.05	64.94	0.7874	887.19	3.0154	
FR Franc	0.1929	0.2954	0.1224	24.2150	21.53	0.2611	33.15	33.1500	

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	DM	CHF	JPY	DM
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4083	0.16921	0.33472	29.7734				
AE Dirham	0.2724	0.4171	0.17287	0.34195	30.4275				
KW Dinar	3.3356	5.10725	2.11685	4.1876	372.439				
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.06174	1.6835	3.33	296.209				
CY Pound	2.138	3.275	1.3572	2.6847	238.833				

Metal Prices									
Metal	Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Unit
Gold (oz)	381	381.5	Silver (oz)	5.01	5.03	Platinum (oz)	385.5	386.5	
AL (3 Months)	1330	1333	CU (3 Months)	1955	1956	Zinc (3 Months)	1030	1031	
Lead (3 Months)	0	755	NI (3 Months)	7150	7160				

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Change	% Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Prev. Close
New York	DOW JONES	5970.5	48.83	0.82	5972.36	5923.42	5921.67		
New York	S&P 500	700.21	5.6	0.81	700.21	694.61	694.61		
London	FT-SE 100	4024	29.3	0.73	4024	3994.9	3994.7		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20968.16	97.33	0.47	21006.1	20896	20870.8		
Paris	CAC 40	2147.12	11.49	0.54	2148.91	2130.37	2135.63		
Frankfurt	DAX	2686.03	5.28	0.2	2688.28	2683.31	2680.75		

Energy									
Commodity	Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Unit
Coffee (c/lb)	121.67	Spot	Sugar (c/lb)	1489	Spot	Wheat (c/lb)	159	Spot	
Soy (c/lb)	331.5	Spot	Barley (c/lb)	115	Spot	Rice (c/lb)	2.57	Spot	
Oil (bbl)	465	Spot							

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	GB Sterling	1.1079	1.1134	DE Mark	0.4633	0.4656	
CH Franc	0.8649	0.8677	FR Franc	0.137	0.1377	JP Yen	0.0381	0.0393	
NL Guilder	0.4128	0.415	IT Lira	0.4644	0.4667				

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

Daily Business Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Shareholders shore up Amman Bank for Investment

** THE GENERAL assembly of the Amman Bank for Investment (ABI) has decided in an extraordinary meeting to restructure the bank's capital by reducing it from JD 15 million to JD 5 million to offset losses. The capital will then be raised by JD 15 million to become JD 20 million. The general assembly authorised the board of directors to take the necessary arrangements to implement the decision through private subscription by Oct. 22, 1996 in accordance with the instructions of the Central Bank.

According to Maher Shukri, deputy chairman and general manager of ABI, the increase in capital will come from old shareholders and new investors as the law has given the old shareholders the right to subscribe by 50 per cent of the increase. He indicated that the board has actually received assurances from main old shareholders to cover JD 7 million of the increase and that new investors have expressed interest to subscribe by JD 10 million.

The ABI's accumulated losses at the end of December 1995 amounted to JD 32.77 million and the shareholders equity was JD 15 million in the red (Al Ra'i).

Government seeks investors to run Hammamat Ma'in

** WITH ANOTHER JD 317,060 loss in 1995, the accumulated losses of the Jordan Tourism and Spa Complex, known as Hammamat Ma'in, have reached JD 9.68 million. This gross loss has created a JD 4.6 million deficit in shareholders equity after erasing the whole JD 5 million capital.

According to the Jordanian companies law, a company that loses 75 per cent of its capital should be subject to obligatory liquidation unless the general assembly of the company decided to increase and restructure the capital. But Muhammad Bataineh, the company's chairman of the board, ruled out the liquidation option and said that the management of the company was working with the government to remedy the situation of the company.

Mr. Bataineh said a German company which was interested in leasing the complex has changed its stand and decided against renting the facilities. As such, he indicated that the management of the complex offered leasing the project to international companies specialised in tourism. Mr. Bataineh added that a meeting with those investors was scheduled for Nov. 9 and he expected a leasing agreement to be signed by early next year.

The period of the agreement could be for 20 to 25 years conditional on a \$1 million annual payment and a 10 per cent share of profits if they exceed JD 200,000 a year (Al Aswaq).

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Japanese Grand Prix First strike to Villeneuve but Hill not ready to crack

SUZUKA, Japan (AFP) — Damon Hill found himself behind his arch-rival and teammate Jacques Villeneuve after the opening practice for the Japanese Grand Prix here on Friday.

But the Englishman vowed that despite the setback he would not crack under the growing pressure as he attempts to win the world championship.

Hill only needs a single point to take the title but if Villeneuve wins the race but Hill fails to finish in the first six the Canadian will become the first ever driver to win the title in his first year in Formula One.

"My whole purpose whilst I have been in Formula One is to win the championship. It's always been my goal," stressed Hill.

"I haven't had any sleepless nights thinking about what's at stake. I have managed to get away from the championship these past three weeks.

"My mind has been on other things, but I would be lying if I didn't say it takes a conscious effort not to be thinking about winning the championship.

"There is always pressure in a grand prix but the thing for me is that I know I can become world champion so it is a motivating factor," he added.

However the title could be decided by the weather.

During the morning session the drivers faced spray lashing into their visors on the fast straights while, at times, they were forced to gingerly pick their way round corners for fear of sliding off the circuit.

Throughout the day Hill



German Ferrari driver Michael Schumacher (R) sits back in his pit as he speaks with his younger brother Ralf, prior to practicing for the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka October 11. Ralf will join his brother in the Formula One ranks next season after recently signing for Jordan (Reuters photo)

pushed himself to the limit — but still saw Villeneuve win their first encounter of the Japanese Grand Prix.

Hill finished fifth fastest with Villeneuve — the only man who can deny him the drivers' title — one place ahead.

But Hill remains confident he is on course for his first drivers' crown after seeing Benetton's Gerhard Berger clock the fastest time of a rain-hit first day.

"It's a good start and I am quite happy with the car — in dry and wet conditions it was effective," said the Williams-Renault driver.

"I'm pleased with the way things are went and am confident for qualifying tomorrow.

row. "I was pushing it to find the limit and there were a couple of wet patches which if you hit them made you slide. But it was comfortable controlling the car.

Ferrari's Michael Schumacher had dominated the first practice session which was held in treacherous conditions with cars sliding all over a Suzuka track left sodden by early morning rain.

Hill had got the better of Villeneuve in the wet, but saw the positions reversed in the second session as times tumbled while the track rapidly dried out. Schumacher's best time in first practice was just over two minutes — by the time the lead had changed hands 11 times after the break Berger had got it down to one minute 42.350 seconds.

The Austrian, who has scored two of his nine Grand Prix wins at Suzuka, was just over half-a-second faster than McLaren's Mika

Hakkinen with Schumacher third.

Villeneuve was just over a second off the pace set by Berger with Hill nearly four-tenths further adrift.

But Hill is not relying on the opposition helping his championship cause although knowing that if any other driver apart from Villeneuve wins the race then he will take the title.

"A few people were quick but you cannot tell on Friday what the situation is," he added. "Often we are not as competitive on the first day but then in qualifying we are able to put ourselves at the head of the field."

Jordan-Peugeot's Martin Brundle was sixth fastest with Eddie Irvine in eighth place in the other Ferrari while Johnny Herbert was 12th quickest for Sauber-Ford. David Coulthard, who span out of the race last year, finished a lowly 13th fastest in the other McLaren more than three seconds slower than Berger.

'I'm not finished yet', says Baggio

MILAN (AFP) — Roberto Baggio wants to win back his first team place at AC Milan, but Italy's best known footballer reckons it would be easier if he was a foreigner.

Baggio, on the bench at Milan and dropped by Italy, gave several reasons why the recent form of the ex-footballer of the year and World Cup hero has become an issue here.

"I train and behave as if I'm always going to be in the team, and play every Sunday and every match," he said on Friday. "Do you know what the problem is?"

"If I was a foreigner, no-one or at least very few people would have brought me into question in such an acute way. It's difficult to be a prophet in your own country."

The truth is that we Italians are very good at assessing and exaggerating the merits of others. Even when they don't deserve it.

But when it comes to our players...

As for himself, Baggio shrugged off speculation that he is not the player he once was.

"I've heard it said, people can say what they like. I know that it's not true. I proved it during the early part

of the season. And then came those 10 minutes against FC Porto and everything changed."

Baggio performed well in pre-season friendlies, the Italian Cup and the opening league fixtures, playing just behind the main strikers George Weah and Marco Simone in a three-man attack.

However, two late goals saw Milan slump to a 3-2 defeat to Porto in their opening champions league game and persuaded coach Oscar

Tabarez to revert to a 4-4-2 line-up. Leaving Baggio with nowhere to play.

The pony-tailed forward, who joined Milan last season after a sparkling five-year career with Juventus, also pointed changes in Italian football.

"The game is getting harder all the time for everyone. You can't train as you should do because there is never enough time. You can't prepare for matches, you can't stop, you can't do a whole lot of things."

"But this is the way football is and we just have to live with it."

"It's very fast and very hard. You've got to think quickly, you've got to think before the ball even gets

to you. Up until 1990, it wasn't like this."

"I've always been fouled, and I will be again in the future. And the kicks will be ever more painful because everyone is moving that much faster and it's easier to get injured."

"And there is less room for skill, less room for players with technique."

However, he flatly ruled out any move abroad to England, France or Japan.

"I've never thought about it and don't want to," he said. "It's of no interest to me. I'm at Milan, and I think about Milan. I've got a contract which expires next year and I'll think about things next year."

Baggio has also not given up hope of playing again for the national team, which over the past 10 days has struggled to beat Moldova and Georgia.

"I wouldn't dream of giving up," he said. "I'm still the national team's top goalscorer, among those who are still playing."

I've scored 24 goals and I'm not yet 30 years old, so why should I give up?"

Cardinals defeat Braves

ATLANTA (R) — Gary Gaetti's grand slam off Greg Maddux capped a five-run seventh inning and gave the St. Louis Cardinals an 8-3 win over the Atlanta Braves Thursday, evening the National League championship series at one game apiece.

The Cardinals ended Atlanta's eight-game home winning streak in the post-season and stole homefield advantage in the best-of-seven series, which moves to St. Louis for the next three games. Game 3 is Saturday.

Gaetti's blast was his 10th career grand slam and fifth career post-season homer.

"Well, it's sweet, you know?" said Gaetti.

"Gaetti's the one who hurt us tonight. That home run just about — it did — it locked it up for them," said Atlanta manager Bobby Cox.

"He is just a dead-game competitor who understands productive at-bats," said St. Louis manager La Russa of Gaetti.

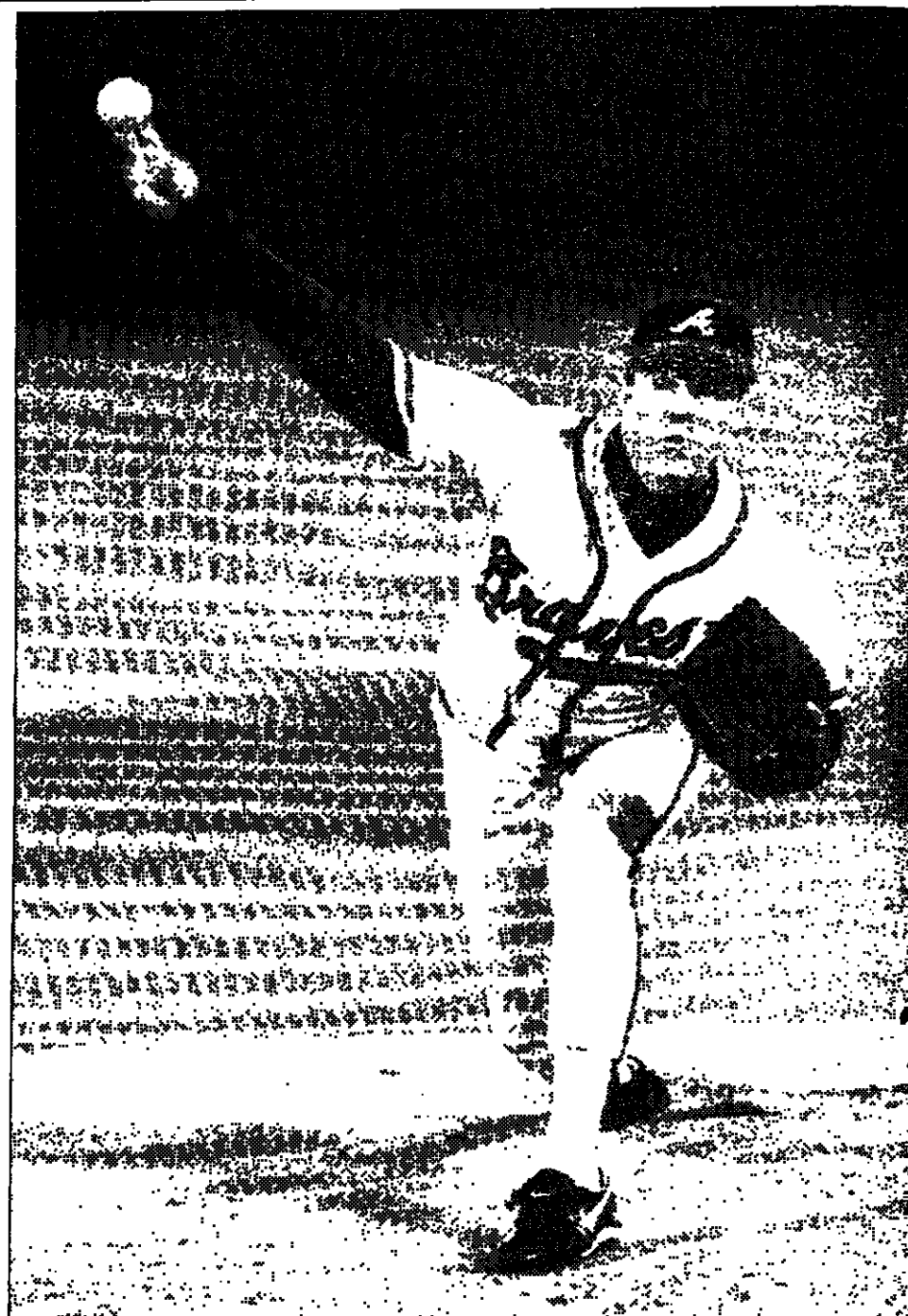
Maddux, the four-time Cy Young award winner, surrendered eight runs — but only three earned — and nine hits in 6 2/3 innings in taking the loss. He has served up two of the five grand slams hit in the NLCS, the other having been hit by San Francisco's Willie Clark in 1989.

Cards starter Todd Stottlemyre went six innings and gave up three runs and four hits with three walks and eight strikeouts to get the win. Mark Petkovsek, Rick Honeycutt and Dennis Eckersley combined for three innings of one-hit relief.

"I really just try to take it a pitch at a time," said Stottlemyre. "We know this is a long series, a seven-game series. Overall, I guess I felt pretty good."

The Braves rallied to tie the game at 3-3 in the bottom of the sixth, but Stottlemyre retired Jermaine Dye and pinch-hitter Terry Pendleton with runners at second and third to escape further damage.

Mike Gallego started the seventh by lining a pitch off Maddux's glove. Shortstop Jeff Blauser scrambled to retrieve the ball on the edge of the outfield grass, but Gallego beat the throw for



Atlanta Braves' pitcher Greg Maddux pitches during the first inning of game two of the National League Championship Series against the St. Louis Cardinals at Fulton County Stadium in Atlanta. Maddux (15-11, 2.72) is making his 11th career post season start (Reuters photo)

an infield single.

Pinch-hitter Mark Sweeney bunted to third baseman Chipper Jones, who trapped the ball while trying to make a diving grab. He got up and threw high off the glove of second baseman Mark Lemke, allowing Gallego to take third and Sweeney second.

"It definitely goes foul if he lets it go foul, no question," Maddux said. "If they do it the next 10 times, Chipper'll probably catch it."

Royce Clayton walked to load the bases before Ray Lankford lined a sacrifice fly to centre, bringing home Gallego with the go-ahead run. A wild pitch moved the runners up, but Ron Gant struck out. After Brian Jordan was intentionally walked, Gaetti launched the next pitch over the fence in left-centre.

"You can't take a whole lot of pitches against that guy," Gaetti said of Maddux. "If you get too deep in the count, he can make you look silly like he did to me earlier. I just got it."

"It was a slider, a good one, huh? It must have broken a lot," Maddux said sarcastically. "I made a bad pitch to Gaetti and that blew the game open right there." St. Louis jumped on top in the first. Clayton led off with a single and came around to score on Gant's single when centre fielder Marquis Grissom had trouble picking up the ball.

The Cardinals padded their lead in the third. Back-to-back doubles by Gant and Jordan produced two runs and a 3-0 cushion.

Atlanta got the runs back in the bottom half on Grissom's two-out, two-run

homer.

Grissom also started the sixth-inning rally with a single and, after Mark Lemke walked, stole third. Lemke moved up on Chipper Jones's groundout and Fred McGriff walked to load the bases before Ryan Klesko delivered an RBI single, tying it 3-3. But Dye popped to shallow centre and Pendleton struck out, leaving the go-ahead run. "He made a good pitch, a slider down and in," Pendleton said. "I feel very good. I just missed an opportunity."

The Braves were limited to five hits and are batting just .192 in the post-season.

The Braves' pitching staff had only given up a combined seven runs in their first four playoff games, including their three-game sweep of Los Angeles in the division series.

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World Airlines Squash Tournament

RJ captures 2nd title

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Royal Jordanian captured the 11th World Airline Squash title with a convincing 5-2 win over Qantas Australia in the final match of the five-day tournament at Al Hassan Squash Centre.

A huge crowd of squash loving enthusiasts watched the RJ team win their second consecutive title following their qualification to the final match after beating Lufthansa 6-1, New Guinea 5-2, and Swissair 6-1.

The tournament, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, had opened Saturday at Al Hussein Sports City with 17 international airline companies taking part.

The hosting of the competition in Amman followed last year's title win for the Royal Jordanian (RJ) squash team in the 10th tournament in Dubai after a convincing 5-2 win over British Airways.

The competition, organised by the RJ Squash Club brought together teams from the following airlines: Ansett New Zealand, Ansett Australia, Lufthansa, Emirates, New Guinea, Cathay Pacific, Hunting Cargo Dublin, British Airways, Qantas, Air New Zealand, Syrian Arab Airlines, Egypt Air, Gulf Air, Sabena, Singapore Airlines, Swissair, and Royal Jordanian.

Participating delegations expressed their appreciation to Royal Jordanian for hosting the tournament.

The organisers were also very happy with the event.

RJ squash club chairman Captain Jawdat Abed Munem expressed his satisfaction saying: "We are fully satisfied with the tournament," he said.

The participants had the chance to visit the historical sites in Jordan in trips organised by Royal Jordanian.

Special prizes and trophies were handed to the winners and the participants at a special ceremony at Amman National Park.

France face up to problems of being World Cup hosts

PARIS (R) — France coach Aime Jacquet likened his players to matadors Thursday as he outlined the problems of not having to qualify for the 1998 event.

"The supporters come a bit like going to a bull fight," said Jacquet after analysing his side's 4-0 win over Turkey in Wednesday's friendly.

"They come to see France win or lose but not to encourage (the team) because there's nothing at stake."

While other countries battle for qualifying points, France, as World Cup hosts, have to settle sometimes for weak opposition in half full grounds with little atmosphere.

"I'm extremely satisfied (with the win)... But the Turkish team, which I had thought redoubtable, disappointed me a bit," said Jacquet, whose only defeat in 30 games in charge came in the Euro 96 semifinal penalty shootout against the Czech Republic.

Jacquet is still looking for a striker capable of scoring regularly but defenders and midfielders proved good finishers at the end of fine defence splitting runs.

Laurent Blanc and Reynald Pedros both chipped goalkeeper Rusu Reber in the first half to set up a comfortable win.

Striker Patrice Loko worked hard pulling

defenders wide to create gaps but was unable to obtain his just reward with a goal.

Jacquet, pleased with the debuts of defenders Alain Goma and Vincent Candela and striker Franck Gava, was nevertheless wary of the context in which they had flourished.

The Turks began well, but when they failed to translate early pressure into goals and conceded two in the space of less than two minutes just after the half hour they lost cohesion.

As the season progresses, Jacquet is concerned club commitments may make it more difficult for him to obtain his Italian and Spanish exiles, although the opposition should be more testing.

France are away to Denmark on November 9 and Portugal in January, then play at home against the Netherlands, Sweden, Brazil, England and Italy later in the season.

"Denmark are a team who will not give us much ball. It's going to be a lot more difficult," Jacquet said.

Clubs must make international matches available to their countries five days ahead of competitive matches on at least seven occasions a season. But for friendlies it is 48 hours and for a team which has qualified ex officio the compulsory release is for only five matches.

Mohammad Daoud wins National Rally

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mohammad Daoud and co-driver Khaled Zakaria Friday won the Palace Lights National Rally in a Ford Escort Cosworth with a time of 1:25.17 minutes.

Marouf Abu Samra and co-driver Amjad Al Shamaileh in a Ford Fiesta Cosworth finished second with a time of 1:26.30 followed by third place finishers Ahmad Daoud and co-driver Mahmoud Mitwali in Ford Escort Cosworth with a time of 1:29.01.

Only ten cars out of an original 12 registered participants showed up at the starting point and eight cars reached the finish line. Ahmad Daoud took the lead in the first stage followed by Mohammad Daoud leaving Bashar Bustami in third place.

The second stage was highly competitive for the participants as Bashar Bustami took the lead, Ahmad Daoud retreated to second place followed by last year's National Rally champion Ma'rouf Abu Samra.

Jordan's Bashar Bustami and co-driver Rafi Belmijian had an accident with their

Ford Sierra Cosworth which forced them to quit the race in the third special stage.

The third special stage had to be cancelled due to the blockage caused by the accident, and the organising committee had to review the time sheet and include the time penalty to all participants leaving the result as shown above.

Toni Kholasy and co-driver Jamil Orfaly faced some mechanical problems to their Ford Fiesta and had to leave the race in the fourth special stage.

Ahmad Daoud led the rest of the stages.

The one-day event consisted of several special stages passing through Iraq Al Amir towards Adasieh road to reach Jordan valley area and back to the RACI.

The rally, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, is this year's third national rally and the fourth event organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

Prizes will be distributed to the winners in a special ceremony at RACJ headquarters Saturday evening.

Olympiakos beat Cibona in final second

ATHENS (R) — Olympiakos edged to a thrilling 62-61 victory over Cibona Zagreb in a euroleague Group B clash on Thursday.

With just one second to go, teenager Dimitris Papanikolaou sank one of two free throws to give the Greeks a precious victory and break Cibona's unbeaten record of three straight wins since the start of the season.

NBA recruit Willy Anderson was Olympiakos's most valuable player with 19 points and nine rebounds while towering pivot Panayotis Fasoulas added 13 and Chicago Bulls hopeful Dragan Tarlac another 11.

Cibona's Damir Moulamerovic confirmed his reputation as the hottest playmaker in Europe today with 20 points — including three triples — reviving Croat hopes every time Olympiakos seemed to have the upper hand.

Olympiakos and Cibona, who are among the favourites for this year's crown along with titleholders Panathinaikos, top Group B with seven points along with teamsystem Bologna.

Standings				
Group A	P	W	L	O
Stefanel Milan (Italy)	4	3	1	7
Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	4	3	1	7
Ulker Spor (Turkey)	4	2	2	6
Panionios (Greece)	4	2	2	6
Cska Moscow (Russia)	4	1	3	5
Limoges (France)	4	1	3	5
Group B	P	W	L	O
Cibona Zagreb (Croatia)	4	3	1	7
Olympiakos (Greece)	4	3	1	7
Teamsystem Bologna (Ita.)	4	3	1	7
Estudiantes Madrid (Spa.)	4	2	2	6
Alba Berlin (Germany)	4	1	3	5
Charleroi (Belgium)	4	0	4	4
Group C	P	W	L	O
Barcelona (Spain)	4	3	1	7
Villeurbanne (France)	4	3	1	7
Ljubljana (Slovenia)	4	2	2	6
Panathinaikos (Greece)	4	2	2	6
Split (Croatia)	4	2	2	6
Bayer Leverkusen (Ger.)	4	0	4	4
Group D	P	W	L	O
Virtus Bologna (Italy)	4	3	1	7
Efes Pilsen (Turkey)	4	2	2	6
Sevilla (Spain)	4	2	2	6
Pau-Orthez (France)	4	2	2	6
Partizan Belgrade (Yug.)	4	2	2	6
Dynamo Moscow (Russia)	4	1	3	5

naikos, top Group B with seven points along with teamsystem Bologna. The Italians scored an comfortable 82-72 victory over Alba Berlin of Germany on Wednesday.

Edberg edges out Muster

VIENNA (R) — A sickly Stefan Edberg moved a step closer to capturing one more title before his retirement when he beat top seed Thomas Muster in the CA trophy Thursday.

The Swede, who plans to quit the game at the end of the year, edged out the Austrian world number three 6-4, 6-7, 7-5.

Edberg, still recovering from a bout of flu which forced him to pull out of last week's tournament in Lyon, stretched his run of victories over claycourt specialist

Muster to nine.

French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov continued his pursuit of his fifth title of the year with an emphatic 6-4 6-3 win over Italian qualifier Omar Camporese.

Kafelnikov had a slow start against Camporese, dropping serve in the seventh game, before stepping up a gear for two consecutive breaks to claim the set.

Newcastle look to strike-force duo

LONDON (AFP) — Fresh from their England success, Les Ferdinand and Alan Shearer aim to be a handful for newly-signed Paul McGrath as Newcastle and Derby clash at the baseball ground on Saturday.

Kevin Keegan's 21 million pound (\$31.5 million) double act have already plundered 13 goals this season, with Ferdinand claiming that their understanding grows by the game.

"We've got 13 goals between us this season for Newcastle and the partnership is going from strength to strength," warned Ferdinand.

Arsene Wenger will have his first taste of Premier-ship action since officially being installed as manager of Arsenal when the Gunners travel to bottom-of-the-table Blackburn.

Bruce Riech's pre-season departure and the defection

of Stewart Houston to Queens Park Rangers have failed to put a dent in Arsenal's spirit and Wenger begins with the club handily placed in third behind Liverpool and Newcastle.

Dennis Bergkamp will be the only ace missing from Wenger's opening hand, with the Dutch striker still sidelined by the hamstring injury that has kept him on the sidelines for Arsenal's last five games.

Rovers, meanwhile, will be going in search of their first league win of the season.

Everton will still be without influential duo Duncan Ferguson and Dave Watson for the visit of West Ham to Goodison Park, but manager Joe Royle is likely to keep faith with the team which beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-0.

West Ham boss Harry Redknapp could have Florin

Raducioiu back in contention after the Romanian striker came through a reserve-team work-out following a calf problem.

Sheffield Wednesday, who have lost three of their last four matches, face in-form Wimbledon with the prospect of being without injured duo Jon Newsome (knee and thigh) and Wayne Collins (groin) as well as the suspended Des Walker.

The Dons are up to sixth in the table after a run of five successive victories lifted the gloom that descended following three successive defeats at the start of the campaign.

Leeds will be looking to give George Graham his first Premiership win since he took over a month ago when they entertain Nottingham Forest. Both teams have taken a paltry seven points from their opening seven matches.

'Rusedski's serving record to stay unofficial'

BEIJING (R) — A 225 kph serve that sent Greg Rusedski into the quarter-finals of the Beijing Open is likely to remain an unofficial world record because of technical limitations at the event, officials said on Friday.

Rusedski won match point against France's Jean-Philippe Fleurian on Thursday with an ace that timekeepers said was faster than the world record jointly held by the British player himself and Australian Mark Philippoussis.

But event officials said the time could not be confirmed because information display systems, the company that calibrated timekeeping equipment for the ATP tour, was not at the Beijing tournament.

"Right now it's an unofficial record," said Steve Casey, ATP tour director of communications. "We are acknowledging that... It must have been close to 225 (kph)."

"It's an unofficial record because (information display systems) wasn't here to calibrate the machines and make sure that everything was standardised as it has been for other events," Casey said. "It's just unfortunate."

He said it was unlikely that the serve would be made an official record in the future.

"I felt it was 225. No question about it," Rusedski said after the match. "I knew when I hit it it would be close or better than my previous fastest."

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Taleban under attack, ready for talks with Masood and Dostum

KABUL (Agencies) -- While rival leaders assembled in the north Friday in a new military alliance against the advancing Taleban army, international aid organisations in the capital evacuated their foreign staff.

More than a third of Kabul's foreign aid community evacuated the city as clashes between the Taleban and forces loyal to the ousted government crept towards the capital.

There were assaults on the Taleban north and east of Kabul, and the main northern highway was cut by fighting with local residents about 35 kilometers from Kabul, witnesses said.

Troops loyal to former government military commander Ahmad Shah Masood, have moved their battles with the Taleban from the key Salang Pass 120 kilometers north of Kabul to within 70 kilometers of the capital city.

Analysis have said further advances by Mr. Masood's troops could seriously threaten the Taleban's hold on the city it took on Sept. 27.

Unconfirmed reports from aid agency sources suggested Mr. Masood's men may be moving from their Panjsher Valley stronghold towards the eastern flank of Kabul.

The exact extent of Mr. Masood's gains have not been confirmed and the area has been cut off to journalists by the Taleban.

The Taleban leadership here has, however, angrily denied reports of advances by ex-government troops and of heavy Taleban casualties.

"The news of heavy losses of the Taleban are completely baseless and our forces are in their previous positions" around the country, acting Minister of Information and Culture Amir Khan Muttaqi told journalists.

Travellers from northern areas said there had been exchanges of heavy weapons fire near the strategic town of Jabul Saraj, 77 kilometers from Kabul.

Meanwhile, Taleban spokesman Wakil Ahmad said they were prepared to hold talks with Mr. Masood and northern warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, according to the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) in Pakistan.

"We have invited them before and we are inviting them again to peacefully resolve the crisis," he said. "(But) if they decide to fight we are prepared to defend."

Taleban reinforcements have been flown to a strategic airbase north of Kabul from the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, and issued with Kalashnikov assault rifles, witnesses said Friday.

"I arrived yesterday (Thursday) in a group of 130," a young Taleban recruit told AFP at Bagram, 50 kilometers north of Kabul.

Mr. Masood, General Dostum and the pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim militia Hezb-e-Wahdat of Karim Khalili signed an accord Thursday under which the three factions would defend each other against an attack, AIP said.

Gen. Dostum, who controls six northern Afghan provinces, invited all Afghan leaders including former King Zahir Shah to meet to form a grand shura (council) for talks to end the Afghan crisis, said the private news agency based in the border city of Peshawar.

Meanwhile, 37 expatriate aid workers have been airlifted out of Kabul airport on three special United Nations and Red Cross aircraft, aid agency officials said.

"We are evacuating temporarily not because we expect the city to come under any attack now, but to avoid clogging up flights if and when foreigners really have to clear the city," said Sue Emmott, head of the British charity Oxfam.

The International Committee of the Red Cross evacuated seven non-essential staff, while the United Nations, which sent some staff out Thursday, sent three international workers on the flights to neighbouring Pakistan, officials said.

Another 27 aid workers from other smaller aid groups based here also left on the flights Friday after being warned that if fighting broke out in or around Kabul suddenly, flights would be fully booked or even cancelled.

The evacuation is not expected to deal a serious blow to the operations of aid groups here, as either essential staff have remained in place or their

projects have already been suspended following the Taleban militia's order for women to halt work, officials said.

"We have in any case been forced to suspend our projects for the meantime as the women who ran them are no longer allowed to work," Ms. Emmott said.

In the past 48 hours Mr. Masood's soldiers have staged dozens of guerrilla-type assaults on Taleban soldiers at several places along the road that leads north from Kabul.

Several witnesses said Taleban soldiers were attacked just 20 kilometers north of the capital, although the fighting appeared to be limited to small arms and heavy machinegun fire.

It appeared to be more of the same hit-and-run attacks being staged by former government troops.

At the mouth of the Panjsher Valley, about 150 kilometers north of the city, Taleban soldiers still were dug in with heavy artillery, tanks and multiple rocket launchers. They have been blasting away at ex-government troops inside the northern valley.

The Taleban army also has been facing some scattered resistance from local residents of several villages north of the capital.

At Bagram where Taleban troops summarily executed a villager on Thursday for allegedly killing a colleague, residents have been shooting at Taleban soldiers mostly under the cover of darkness.

It took the Taleban's conquest of the capital and overthrow of the government two weeks ago to bring Mr. Masood together with

Gen. Dostum, who commands the only other major military force still capable of standing up to the Taleban.

"We want to establish a broad-based government in Afghanistan," said Gen. Piandah, spokesman for Gen. Dostum, the apparent head of the new alliance.

"It must respect the demands, cultures and opinions of others," said Gen. Piandah. "It must be moderate and acceptable to people inside Afghanistan."

Ekeus accuses Iraq of concealing details

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) -- The top U.N. arms inspector responsible for disarming Iraq on Friday accused Baghdad of continuing to systematically conceal banned weaponry, further delaying the lifting of six-year-old sanctions.

UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) Chairman Rolf Ekeus, in his six-monthly report on Iraqi disarmament to the U.N. Security Council, said that "policies and actions of concealment practised by the Iraqi authorities have put obstacles in the way of rapid completion of the implementation tasks."

Mr. Ekeus must certify that Iraq has dismantled its biological and chemical weapons, along with missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres before the 15-member Security Council can lift the crippling oil embargo imposed following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In his 56-page report released here Friday, Mr. Ekeus said that the commission "has not yet reached the stage where it can state with confidence that everything that is proscribed to Iraq has been identified and disposed of."

"The commission's information indicates that Iraq has still not told the full story of its proscribed

weapons materials and capabilities for final disposal."

The report was particularly critical of Iraq concerning biological weaponry and ballistic missiles.

Referring to a "full, final and complete" disclosure on biological weapons handed over by Iraq in June, the report said that the Iraqi document "is not credible. Major sections are incomplete, inaccurate or unsubstantiated."

Concerning Iraq's attempts to conceal missile parts and documents, the report noted that in a letter earlier this month, Baghdad had admitted that "all its major missile establishments had in July 1991 been ordered to load important tools, dies and parts of key priority on trucks."

The commission was still investigating the latest admission but "still has serious concerns that not all diversion and concealment activities have been disclosed," the report said.

Mr. Ekeus also said that the U.N. arms inspectors had been unable to completely verify Iraqi claims concerning the destruction of Baghdad's chemical weapons capability. He notably had concerns about nerve agents which could be used to arm banned long-range missiles which could threaten Iraq's neighbours.

FBI holds five in alleged bomb plot

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has arrested five members of a West Virginia militia group on charges they plotted to blow up a FBI's national fingerprint records complex in the state, law enforcement sources said Friday.

The five members of the West Virginia Mountaineer militia were in FBI custody in Clarksburg.

In Huntington, West Virginia, a local television report said Edward Moore was charged in federal court with conspiracy to manufacture explosive materials. FBI agents refused to say whether Mr. Moore had a connection with the alleged plot. Among others charged was Ray Looker, commander of the Mountaineer militia, who accused federal agents last year of staging the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building to justify a crackdown on the militia movement, said one law enforcement source. The five were arrested on charges they plotted to place explosives near the FBI facility in Clarksburg, which the bureau recently opened as its fingerprint records centre.

Prince Waleed visits Petra after meetings with Crown Prince and prime minister

AMMAN (J.T.) -- Prince Waleed Ben Talal Ben Abdul Aziz on Friday visited the Nabatean city of Petra and was briefed about its history and its role in supporting the Jordanian economy.

The Saudi guest was accompanied by Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Saraih, who is also acting minister of tourism and antiquities.

Prince Waleed, accompanied by Jordan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Hani Khalifa and the Ministry of Tourism secretary general, toured Petra.

On Thursday His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at the Royal Court Prince Waleed and reviewed with him bilateral relations.

Prince Hassan and Prince Waleed discussed scopes of cooperation between industrial and investment institutions in the two countries.

Prince Waleed praised Jordan's development efforts



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Thursday receives Prince Waleed Ben Talal Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia (The Jordan Times, in its Thursday edition, carried an unrelated photograph with a report on Prince Waleed signing a hotel agreement on page 9. The Times regrets the inadvertent error)

and the investment climate in Jordan.

Also on Thursday Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti received Prince Waleed and reviewed with him Jordan's economic development phases, and investment opportunities in the Kingdom.

The prime minister briefed the guest on the government's economic and financial policies which encourage Arab and foreign investments in Jordan.

Mr. Kabarti praised the role played by the Saudi private sector to set up economic and commercial projects in cooperation with the private sector in Jordan.

Prince Waleed praised the facilities offered to investors in Jordan.

In a press statement following the meeting, Prince Waleed said he discussed with the prime minister issues of common concern.

Nobel Prize for Peace goes to two East Timor independence activists

OSLO (AFP) -- Two leading opponents of Indonesian military rule on East Timor were awarded the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, thrusting the South-East Asian territory's long struggle for independence sharply into the international spotlight.

The Nobel Committee said East Timor's Roman Catholic Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo and Jose Ramos Horta, the self-exiled spokesman for its pro-independence movements, were honoured "for their work towards a just and peaceful solution to the conflict on East Timor."

East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, was overrun by Indonesian troops in 1975 and annexed the following year, after the revolution in Portugal which led to that country's rapid withdrawal from its overseas possessions.

Since then, the committee said, "it has been estimated that one-third of the population of East Timor lost their lives due to starvation, epidemics, war and terror."

It praised Mr. Belo and Mr. Ramos Horta for their "sustained and self-sacrificing contributions for a small but oppressed people."

The two will receive the award, a shared cheque worth 7.4 million Swedish kronor (\$1.12 million), at a ceremony in Oslo on Dec. 10, the 100th anniversary of the death of the Swedish inventor and creator of the prize, Alfred Nobel.

The committee's choice was praised by the Vatican as well as by Portugal and by Australia, whose relations with Indonesia have been bedevilled by abuses of human rights on the island.

But in Jakarta, State Secretary Murtidono said he was "shocked and surprised."

"We regret that such a reputable institution has decided to award a person like Horta," Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ghaflar Fadyil told AFP.

He also accused Mr. Horta of not only "manipulating East Timorese for his own interest, but in inciting them to separate from being an integral part of the republic of Indonesia."

Mr. Horta, who is Sydney, Australia



Bishop Carlos Belo

was swift to respond, saying he was "as guilty of inciting my people as the Dalai Lama is guilty of inciting the people of Tibet."

"I'm as guilty as Aung San Suu Kyi of inciting the Burmese people."

"I'm as guilty as Nelson Mandela of inciting the people of South Africa against apartheid," Mr. Horta told Australia's Channel Nine Television.

Repeated attempts at negotiations have broken down, but Norway said Friday it was prepared to host unsponsored talks between the Indonesian government and Timorese pro-independence forces.

Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal said his government "offered its services to set up meetings" along with other unnamed countries.

Mr. Belo meanwhile hailed the award as belonging to "everyone who works for peace and human rights."

The publicity generated by the award would lead to greater international attention and support for their cause, he told AFP from his home in the East Timor capital Dili.

He also emphasised that he preached non-violent opposition to Indonesia.

"This prize represents the very hard work we still have to do in the future," he said. "This makes heavier our



Jose Ramos Horta

responsibility that youths here behave in a non-violent way."

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer welcomed the choice, saying: "We congratulate the Nobel Laureates with whom we share the desire for a peaceful East Timor."

Mr. Horta said he would have preferred Mr. Belo to share the prize with the former guerrilla leader and separatist leader Xanana Gusmao, who is serving a 20-year jail sentence in Indonesia.

At the Vatican, a spokesman for Mr. Belo's Salesian order said: "The Nobel prize will be an important support for the work the entire Timor Catholic church and its bishop are contributing towards an oppressed minority."

In Lisbon, Portuguese president Jorge Sampaio was swift to congratulate the prize-winners. "It is a reward for those who have held an untiring position in favour of the human rights, peace and self-determination of East Timor," he said.

Amnesty International also hailed the award saying it would "really bring East Timor back into the international spotlight... The human rights situation in East Timor remains extremely grave. Arbitrary detention and torture are a fact of daily life."

Apartheid generals acquitted of murder

DURBAN (R) -- Former South African Defence Minister Magnus Malan, who led the "dirty war" to preserve apartheid, was acquitted on Friday of ordering the massacre of 13 blacks.

Mr. Malan, the most senior apartheid-era leader to be tried for atrocities against the black majority, was found not guilty of masterminding the 1987 death squad murders in Kwamakhutha near the Indian Ocean port city of Durban.

Three generals, a vice-admiral, a brigadier, a major and a top official of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party were also acquitted.

In a statement immediately after his acquittal Mr. Malan thanked President Nelson Mandela for allowing the accused to defend themselves in a court of law and called the outcome a "victory of justice."

The not-guilty verdict was expected to anger anti-apartheid activists who bore

the brunt of Mr. Malan's military force during their fight against white domination and remain convinced that death squads were sanctioned at the very top.

But political analysts said they were not surprised by Friday's outcome, since the prosecution's case appeared shaky from the outset.

Judge Jan Hugo, who dismissed all charges against Mr. Malan and 15 co-defendants, said the prosecution's case was fundamentally flawed. He exonerated the former defence minister of all charges including murder, attempted murder and conspiracy to murder.

"We have found no proof of express authorisation of the Kwamakhutha incident... or tacit approval (by the military)," Judge Hugo told the court.

South Africa does not operate a jury system. Rulings are made by a judge in consultation with two assessors.

The state had tried to show the accused organised the attack as part of a covert

defence force operation using the mainly Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party against Mr. Mandela's then-banned African National Congress.

Judge Hugo said much of the documentary evidence dealt with a paramilitary force set up under Mr. Malan to help Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

He said the documents presented in the case did not imply that this meant a death squad, adding that crucial to the state's case was the term "offensive" unit, found in many of the documents.

It often seemed to have an "innocent" meaning, in that it did not mean death squads, but a security function, he added.

Mr. Malan apparently expected acquittal. He turned up in court on Friday, the final day of a seven-month trial, waving and giving a thumbs-up sign to crowds gathered outside the colonial-style courthouse.

The prosecution's case began to crumble visibly on Thursday when six police-

men were cleared of carrying out the attack.

Mandela urges respect for ruling

President Mandela called on South Africans to respect the court ruling.

Mr. Mandela said in a statement his government would continue to investigate apartheid atrocities and find those responsible for executing and directing them.

"The president reaffirms that the courts are the institutions to determine the guilt of the accused and indeed the judicial findings... Must be respected, even, or especially, by those who are aggrieved by these findings," the statement said.

"We give the assurance that where persons have died as a result of atrocities, we will continue to investigate who was responsible and who, in regard to alleged 'third force' activities, was responsible for directing these activities."



Abu Shakra Trading Agency Launches the New Perfume Shahi

GENERAL MANAGER of Abu Shakra Trading Agency, Mr. Rami Abu Shakra, launched the new perfume Shahi. Shahi the smell of success, a fragrance full of fantasy and mysterious sensuality. With its exciting and mysterious charm, Shahi is the fragrance of '90s', the fragrance for the modern independent woman who loves the magic of the unknown and likes to indulge her feelings. A woman who approves of emotions and imagination, Shahi is the ideal fragrance for this woman.

Man charged with schoolyard petrol attack

BRISBANE (R) -- A 26-year-old Australian man was remanded in custody Friday after police alleged he set fire to a six-year-old boy in a schoolyard in the north Queensland town of Cairns. Paul Streton entered no plea to charges of attempted murder and grievous bodily harm when he appeared at the Cairns Magistrates Court. He did not seek bail and was remanded in custody to appear again for committal on Dec. 11. Tjandunurra O'Shane received burns to 60 per cent of his body when he was doused with petrol and set alight in front of his primary school classmates Thursday. O'Shane is the nephew of a prominent aboriginal magistrate but police and family members said they did not think the attack was racially motivated. The boy was flown to a children's hospital in Brisbane, the Queensland state capital, after the attack. He was reported Friday to be in stable but very serious condition.

Vanilla cigarette launched in Singapore

SINGAPORE (AFP) -- British-American Tobacco Company (Singapore) Ltd. has started selling what it calls the world's first vanilla-flavoured cigarette, saying it would make smoking more socially acceptable. Its Singapore unit developed the product after considerable research, the company said in a statement, adding that the smoke perfumed the air with a vanilla scent and eliminated annoyance to non-smokers. Singapore has tough laws against smoking in public places and levies high tariffs on cigarettes, making them among the most expensive in the world. A pack of the new cigarettes will cost four dollars (\$2.85). BAT spokesman Daniel Quek said the company started distributing the cigarette Monday. "I think smokers in Singapore have been feeling a little bit pressured, to say the least," Mr. Quek said. "Here is a product which in our opinion can eliminate most of the complaints that non-smokers have about smokers -- like cigarette smell. All they get here is the smell of vanilla," he added.

British men who smoke die earlier -- study

LONDON (R) -- More than half of British men who start smoking in their teens and continue to smoke throughout their life will not live past 73, a major study on the effect of smoking said Friday. The 15-year study, funded by the British Heart Foundation and covering 7,735 men, showed that 78 per cent of those who have never smoked are alive at 73 while only 42 per cent of those who were smoking before they were 20 would survive to that age. "Our analyses suggest that most of the difference in life expectancy between lifelong smokers and those who have never smoked is due to smoking itself," the authors of the report from London's Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine said.